

US interest rates to remain high

A United States Federal Reserve Board decision to impose an even slower rate of money supply growth will ensure that American interest rates remain high for some time to come. The decision, announced yesterday, has been made despite mounting congressional opposition to the rate levels and in the face of strong criticism by foreign leaders at the Ottawa summit meeting.

The firm line taken in the Fed's announcement, together with a further rise in the States interest rates, led to a further sharp rise in the dollar, pushing sterling to \$1.8455, its lowest level against the dollar this year. Page 19

Cut in teacher training likely

A recommendation to cut by a quarter next year's intake into postgraduate teacher training courses is expected to be approved by the Government's Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers when it meets today. No change is recommended in next year's intake into the three and four-year Bachelor of Education courses. Page 3

Danube threat to flood Vienna

Vienna was officially warned last night that the Danube might burst its banks. The river was rising 3 cm an hour after rain and snowstorms had swept Bavaria and Austria, drowning eight people and inundating roads and wide stretches of farmland. Photograph, page 8

Rejection call on Whitehall pay

A second Civil Service union is to urge its members to reject the Government's offer to settle the 20-week pay dispute. It wants members to acknowledge that the consequences would be an all-out strike. Leaders of the other seven unions are putting the offer to members without recommendation. Page 2

Gas supply fear

Delays in bringing the Brent Field in the North Sea into operation may cause problems this winter, British Gas says that if there is a prolonged period of cold weather, gas supplies to industry may be threatened. Page 19

Tour arrests

Police have arrested 38 people who demonstrated outside the hotel of the South African Springbok rugby team in New Zealand. Britain is reluctantly supporting a Commonwealth decision to switch the Finance Ministers meeting from New Zealand to the Bahamas in protest against the tour. Page 6

£1.8m yearling

Robert Sangster, bidding through the British Bloodstock Agency (Ireland), paid a record \$3.5m (£1,817,660) for the yearling son of Northern Dancer at the Keeneland Sales in Lexington, Kentucky. Minutes later Aston Uphorpe snup \$3.3m for another son of Northern Dancer. Yesterday's sales totalled £23m. Page 18

Rasputin revived

A controversial film about the depraved monk Rasputin and his role in the fall of the Russian monarchy has become the sensation of the Moscow film festival. It was shown for the first time after lying on the censors' shelf for eight years. Page 6

'Times' wedding colour magazine



To commemorate the royal wedding on July 29, The Times will next Tuesday publish its first colour magazine in its history. The Archbishop of Canterbury contributes a personal reflection on the significance of the ceremony, and Lady Diana Spencer, Norman Scott, and Anthony Holden examine the state of the monarchy in the life of the nation, and the social revolution which has transformed Britain since the marriage of the Queen in 1947. In today's feature on preparations for the wedding, the cost of it all. Page 4

me News	2	Lurie cartoon	6
times	6-8	Obituary	14
news	14, 22	Parliament	9
ts	15	Property	29
ts	16	Sal & Room	14
ts	16	Science	4
ts	16	Sport	26-18
ts	16	TV & Radio	31
ts	16	Theatres, etc	31
ts	16	25 Years Ago	32
ts	16	Weather	32
ts	16	Wills	34

Subscription service, back page

US and allies clash on world economic strategy

From David Blake, Ottawa, July 21

Leaders of the world's seven communist bloc nations are expected to make a statement of intent at the end of two and a half days of talks on the world's economy tonight having agreed on a 30-paragraph communiqué under five main headings but little else concrete.

Mrs Thatcher hailed the meeting as a success and she said: "This has been a very valuable summit, although it has been overshadowed by the deepening crisis in the Middle East." She said that discussions, particularly on East-West relations, the world economy and north-south issues, had taken place in "an excellent and constructive atmosphere. All of us know each other's minds much better on a very wide range of issues". She was particularly pleased that the West was determined to negotiate on arms from a position of strength.

Mrs Thatcher's pleasure is clearly shared by other world leaders, who are to meet in France next year at the invitation of the French President. The same group of seven countries will take part as those attending this year's summit. They are France, Canada, Britain, Italy, Germany, Japan and the United States. In addition the EEC Commission is allowed to attend.

Sharp disagreements between the United States and its most important partners remain on the handling of the world economy. Mrs Thatcher has given unwavering support to President Reagan right through the discussion of investment rates, which have been the subject of the most intense debate.

There have been some tough warnings of what American interest rates are doing to the rest of the world. German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said that interest rates in Germany were "now at their highest level since the birth of Christ" in real terms. France's President Francois Mitterand warned that unemployment in France and Germany and other countries was coming close to a flash point "something which the French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson specifically linked to tensions in Britain in recent weeks. The Italian Premier Giovanni Spadolini said that his country was failing to meet its inflation targets because of American interest rates.

European leaders are now reconciled to the fact that American interest rates will remain high for months to come. They are likely to make another push to get interest rates "down" in the autumn. There will also be a new impetus given to attempts to smooth out currency fluctuations.

The meeting seems to have made some genuine progress on the problems of relations with developing countries. The

Middle East ceasefire rejected by Israel

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, July 21

During an emergency five-hour Cabinet meeting today, the Israeli Government flatly ruled out the possibility of any immediate ceasefire in the Middle East.

The new war of attrition with the Palestinians has caused chaos along Israel's northern border and the deaths of hundreds of Arabs inside Lebanon. The terms of the compromise proposed by the Cabinet were relayed to Washington tonight during a meeting between Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Mr Philip Habib, America's Middle East envoy.

Although the Cabinet's decision was kept a close secret for several hours, it had been widely expected.

Israeli military and political leaders are known to fear that any limited ceasefire would merely give the Palestinians the opportunity to reorganize and renew their attacks against Israeli civilian targets at a later date.

Mr Begin said his Government had rejected the possibility of any negotiations—direct or indirect—with the Palestinian guerrillas. Through out yesterday the Palestinians kept up their rocket attacks into northern Israel.

In the attacks on the Mediterranean resort of Nahariya, one Israeli civilian was injured when a school was hit.

In rejecting the possibility of any negotiations with Palestinian groups to end the present round of fighting, Mr Begin stated that the declared aim of the Palestinian terrorist organizations was "the destruction of Israel and its people".

During the Cabinet session, one of the longest in recent months—ministers agreed only to authorize Mr Habib to embark on contacts with the Lebanese President and Government.

Mr Begin said that these would have the aim of establishing peaceful relations between Israel and Lebanon

Benn back with a challenge to Healey

By Philip Webster, Political Staff

Mr Wedgwood Benn, making his return to active politics yesterday, soon found himself in opposition to Mr Denis Healey, his main opponent in Labour's deputy leadership contest, and Mr Michael Foot, the party leader.

Looking guttured and fit, although admitting to being "still wonky" on his legs, Mr Benn attended a special meeting of Labour's national executive committee almost seven weeks after Mr Foot's dramatic challenge to him to fight him for the party leadership, and his admission to hospital the following day suffering from polio.

He succeeded in getting through the NEC a proposal, described later by Mr John Giddings, Labour MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, as a "right wing member of the executive, as 'crackers', to give youngsters taking part in the Government's youth opportunities programme, statutory trade union rights including that to negotiate over pay.

Mr Benn's proposal, seconded by Mr Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, was carried by 12 votes to five, with both Mr Foot and Mr Healey voting against.

It arose after several members had expressed concern at the way the youth opportunities programme was being run. Mr Benn, among others, argued that some employers were taking advantage of the scheme to avoid having to employ full-time staff at rates of pay agreed with the unions. Some youngsters were not being given work experience, as the scheme envisaged, but were being used as cheap labour.

Members who argued against Mr Benn's move said that the YOP was a form of training paid for by the Government. Mr Giddings said: "No Labour government could possibly agree to pay whatever employers and unions agree should be paid in a particular workplace. Working people will not accept a situation whereby youngsters are paid by the state to do ordinary work, thus forcing adults out of work and keeping the long-term unemployed out of work."

Mr Benn, who impressed his colleagues with his grasp of the usual multitude of documents which came before the NEC as the annual conference approached, crossed voting swords with Mr Healey again as the executive, as expected, approved a report from a party study group on the youth opportunities programme.

Mr Healey seconded a motion proposed by Mr Giddings that the decision should be subject to the holding of a referendum, which was voted down by 16 votes to three.

Mr Benn, despite his advocacy of the 1975 referendum, was against holding another one. It was argued by opponents of the motion that by making the referendum a commitment, the electorate would be able, in voting Labour, to vote to come out of the NEC.

The NEC also endorsed a policy statement, The Socialist Alternative, setting out a programme for achieving a socialist society. It included a commitment to a strategy of import controls and a powerful new system of industrial planning and intervention.

The NEC also agreed that the party should campaign for a 35-hour week with no loss of living standards although the paper does not go into any great detail on how that objective should be achieved.

After the meeting Mr Benn, who described it as a "good morning's work", went to the French Embassy in London. He was followed by Mr Douglas Hoyle, a fellow NEC member and the Labour victor at Warrington, take his seat.

Text of the timetable—Page 2



Bob Willis, England's hero, leaps with delight as one of eight Australians falls victim to his fast bowling.

'Bottom of the barrel' England win Stoddart caught out after 87 years

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

England won one of their greatest and most exciting victories when they beat Australia by 18 runs in the Third Test at Headingley yesterday afternoon. It is only the second time in Test history that a side has won after being made to follow on, as England did last Saturday afternoon. The last was at Sydney in 1894-95 when England were also the victors. The captain then was A. E. Stoddart and England won by 10 runs after following on.

Yesterday's hero was the Warwickshire captain, Bob Willis, whose eight wickets for 43 runs in 15.7 overs completed the recovery which Ian Botham had begun with his memorable innings of 143 not out. Having soon taken England's one remaining wicket yesterday morning, Australia were left with only 130 to win and in not much more than an hour they reached 56 for 1.

Seventy minutes later they were 75-8. A dangerous partnership of 35 in only four overs between Botham and Lillee followed, before Willis finished off the match.

Until, in the penultimate over, Australia's last man, Alderman, was dropped twice in

Jobless figures soar again but stay below three million

By Melvyn Westlake

Unemployment has soared again this month but not past the three million mark, as had been widely feared both in Whitehall and elsewhere.

The total registered jobless in the United Kingdom on July 9 was 2,852,000, including school-leavers and before making any adjustment for seasonal factors. The total is 171,000 higher than in June.

But there are increasing signs that the underlying rate of increase is continuing to slow down. The figures, seasonally adjusted and excluding school-leavers, rose by only 30,000, the smallest increase for 19 months. On this narrow definition, unemployment now stands at 2,582,000 or 10.7 per cent of the labour force.

If the overall figure rises next month by the same amount as it has in July, unemployment will have passed the politically sensitive three million mark. However, the bulk of this summer's unemployed school-leavers are now probably included in the figures, and this could mean a rather smaller increase in August. That would probably postpone a three-million total until the early winter.

Only in a handful of months at the depths of the Depression, in 1931 and 1932, has the number of jobless recorded in this country been higher than it is today, and never has it risen above three million.

The latest rise in the number without work was bitterly condemned yesterday by trade union leaders and members of the Opposition.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said Britain was now seeing the devastating consequences of the Government's "no hope" policies, which were based on the "economics of the ice age".

For some months there had been 25 per cent unemployment among young people, he said, and it was now heading towards 50 per cent. Urban unemployment among the young, particu-

larly in ethnic minority communities, was a recipe for continuing strife in the inner cities, Mr Murray said.

Mr Eric Varley, the Shadow Employment Secretary, said the unemployment figures marked a further ruinous stage in the collapse of the Government's economic policy.

One reason why the July increase proved to be less than expected is that fewer school-leavers are registering than seemed likely. There were 285,000 school-leavers without work in July, some 69,000 up on June. But this is 60,000 less than projections suggested, and may reflect the fact that jobless school-leavers can no longer draw benefits until the end of the holidays after the term in which they leave.

Although ministers can hold out little hope that the three million mark will not be passed by early 1982 at the latest, they can draw some comfort from yesterday's figures.

The underlying rate of increase on the narrow definition of unemployment has fallen steadily since early last winter. In addition, there is now the first sign for some months of an upturn in the number of vacancies notified to employment offices. But at best the picture of the labour market will worsen more slowly.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, is to force another full debate in Parliament on unemployment (our Political Staff writes).

He told Mr Whitehouse, the Home Secretary, who was answering Commons questions in the absence of the Prime Minister, that the Opposition would table a censure motion over the "terrible unemployment figures".

By convention the Government must give a full day for such a motion to be debated. This may mean that Parliament will have to sit into August, instead of rising for the summer recess on Friday week.

Leading article, page 13
Long-term jobless, page 19

A boy who wept—the agony behind the grim statistics

By Frances Gibb

As unemployment yesterday soared to new levels in England and Wales, careers officers are predicting that by the end of the summer there will be about one million teenagers in the market for permanent jobs.

They are already hard pressed to cope. In a two-part inquiry starting today, The Times highlights some of the worst hit: the big strapping lad "who burst into tears when his temporary work scheme had to be withdrawn; the youngster who described himself as "honest and reliable" and offered £1,000 for an apprenticeship in welding or as an electrician.

There is the boy who would love to do up the local church, but no one will pay him to do it and the sixth former who mistakenly thought "A levels would improve his chances but found: 'I'm just the same as everyone else'".

These are some of the youngsters in Cleveland, one of the top areas of the country for high unemployment. Jobless youngsters are nothing new in Cleveland: the problem has been there for 20 years. Its careers officers are struggling (for the most part successfully) to keep up morale among some 7,000 unemployed teenagers competing for seven jobs.

Yesterday's figures include a total of 269,000 school leavers without jobs. But that does not take into account all those leavers who are over 18; those who have not registered because they are not eligible for supplementary benefit until September or those 440,000 now on Youth Opportunities schemes who in a few months will be back on the job market. Frances Gibb's first report, on the plight of jobless youngsters in Cleveland, is on the back page today. Tomorrow she examines the position in Surrey where parents and children are reacting with shock to what to them is a new situation.

Staff at British embassies reduced to sign language

By Kenneth Gosling

A report highly critical of the ability of British diplomats abroad to use the languages of the countries to which they are posted was published yesterday by the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee.

It expresses "a sense of disquiet" about the failure of staff to use, in particular, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Russian. At the embassy in Paris it found that only half the Diplomatic Service staff could use French adequately while in Bonn only a third had a similar competence in German.

Action was needed, the report says, to correct the situation as regards the main European languages, and that this should be done fairly quickly.

The Diplomatic Service has, in something like the present form, been in existence for 35 years so presumably errors made over that period to obtain a high level of linguistic ability in the service should have borne fruit," it says.

The committee is also critical of the failure of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to provide information about planned Government reductions in the BBC's External Services and it queries the cost (£763,000 a year) of VIP facilities at Heathrow and Gatwick airports. Accepting that the United Kingdom should extend every

Spain snubs royal wedding

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, July 21

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia of Spain have decided not to attend the wedding of the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer.

According to palace sources the King cancelled plans to attend the royal wedding after it was learnt here that Prince Charles and his bride will begin their honeymoon in Gibraltar.

Although the Spanish monarch's trip to Britain had not been announced officially, well-informed sources assured The Times last week that the King, his Greek-born Queen, and their three children would attend the royal wedding. Both King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia are descendants of Queen Victoria.

Since their plans were never officially confirmed, no public explanation of the change is expected.

The state-run radio announced the cancellation of the Spanish royal visit tonight quoting "sources close to the palace". The report linked the decision to Prince Charles' plans to start his honeymoon in Gibraltar.

Buckingham Palace confirmed that the Spanish royal couple had decided not to attend the wedding. Prince Charles had been informed, a spokesman said.

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National strike urged by union in Civil Service

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Leaders of a second Civil Service union last night decided to urge their members to reject the Government's final offer, which it hoped would settle the 20-week long pay dispute.

An executive meeting of the 45,000-strong Civil Service Union, which represents low-grade staff, including cleaners, messengers and doorkeepers, decided that the Government's offer of a £30 lump payment on top of the original 7 per cent was "woefully inadequate".

It will recommend meetings of its section executives next week to reject the offer and acknowledge that the consequence would be an all-out strike.

The executive of the 100,000-strong Society of Civil and Public Servants recommended rejection last week. Leaders of the other seven unions are putting the offer to their members with no recommendation and with varying degrees of enthusiasm.

Left-wingers, particularly in the largest union, the Civil and Public Servants Association, will be campaigning over the next week to get the offer rejected and embark on the first all-out national strike.

A meeting of 800 members of the CPSA at the big Department of Health and Social Security complex at Newcastle upon Tyne voted last night overwhelmingly to reject the offer. The meeting also called for the resignation of the union executive.

Mr Leslie Moody, the CSU general secretary, said after the meeting last night: "We are not prepared to deceive our members. If we are talking about increasing pressure on the Government, that has got to lead to all-out strike action. That is a drastic decision to take but we must face the fact that we cannot look forward to another 20 weeks of selective action."

All the unions will be making clear to their members that the alternative to accepting the offer is all-out action, because they do not have the funds to sustain selective disruption beyond the beginning of next month.

From tomorrow civil servants around the country will be meeting to discuss the offer. Despite the decisions of the two union executives to recommend rejection, union leaders still believe that the offer was made in good faith and that the Government's pay offer to accept. The National Union of Public Employees prefers the flat six per cent over 12 months.

FitzGerald speaks out on Irish unification

By Tim Jones and Richard Ford

Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister, claimed yesterday that British politicians were secretly in favour of a United Ireland.

He told the Daily Irish Independent that the British Government had a crucial role to play in the unification of Ireland. "That role should be played in a positive manner by indicating publicly what many British political leaders say in private: that they wish to see the unity of the people of Ireland and that they will support everything that promotes the achievement of that objective with the consent of the people of Northern Ireland."

His statement is bound to fuel the fears of the "loyalist" majority in Northern Ireland, who have been deeply suspicious of the continuing talks between Dublin and Westminster. It is that dialogue which led Mr Ian Paisley to launch his "Carson" rally, alleging that Britain was preparing to sell out Northern Ireland to the Republic.

Dr FitzGerald said yesterday that talks concerning the hunger-strike crisis were continuing at a level but no plans had been made for a meeting at ministerial level.

Senior Irish Government ministers believe privately that the hunger-strike crisis have hardened the attitude to the point of intransigence.

Ministers in Dublin are particularly dismayed that the prisoners are now insisting on direct negotiations with a member of the British Government in the person of Mr Brendan McPartland, whom the republican prisoners describe as their officer commanding.

Meanwhile, Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday dismissed the idea of the hunger strike as the end of the Maze crisis on the hunger strikers.

He said in a BBC Radio 2 interview that a message had been received from a priest that one of the men wanted to talk to the prison governor and a Northern Ireland Office official to clear the air.

But the version of the events which led to the early morning visit by two officials to the prison was immediately disputed by the father of Kieran Doherty, aged 24, who entered the strike on July 14.

He claimed they had no knowledge of the invitation.

During yesterday's 30-minute visit, two officials met the families of Mr Doherty and Mr Kevin Lynch, another hunger striker, and the other hunger strikers in the prison hospital. However, Mr Atkins said, it became clear that the prisoners wanted to negotiate, which he said "we will not do. We are not prepared to negotiate with convicted prisoners who are, after all, convicted of the most heinous crimes."

Mr Thatcher last night reaffirmed the Government's determination not to concede political status to IRA prisoners (the Press Association reports).

In a letter, made public yesterday, to members of the Parliamentary Labour Party's Northern Ireland Group, she wrote: "There are certain principles which we are not prepared to break. We will not concede political status and we will not hand over control of the prisons for which we are responsible."

The mother of Hoblock, hunger striker Thomas McElwee, was welcomed to County Hall yesterday by Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the Council of London, who said that "people fighting for their freedom" had his support.

Mr McElwee, who yesterday was completing his fortyfourth day of his fast in the Maze, is serving a 20 year sentence for manslaughter.

His mother's visit was condemned by Sir George Oulton, Conservative opposition leader, who said: "This is nothing to do with the G.I.C. It is a self-seeking publicity move by Livingstone to embarrass the Government at London's expense."



Mr Heseltine at a Toxteth school: "Incredible children."

Loyalty impresses Heseltine

From John Young, Liverpool

Several semi-detached blocks of three-storey "walk-up" flats, many with their windows boarded up, residents called out to him to come and see their conditions.

Brian and Catherine Kennedy, who pay £22 a week for their three-bedroom flat, complained that sewage from a blocked pipe was welling up through the floor of an empty flat next door. "I had to nail up the door to keep the smell out," Mr Kennedy said.

Their block has had 20 fires in two years. Another was flooded four weeks ago and Alan and Marian Nolan have been without gas, electricity or water ever since. Last week their flat was broken into by vandals who smashed everything in sight.

Earlier, after talks with trade unions, Mr Heseltine visited Paddington Comprehensive School on the edge of Toxteth. He said the school was a "supreme example of the best of what we have in Liverpool 8, the scene of the riots, but conceded that it escaped police "harassment".

As Mr Heseltine walked past

Brutality allegations Manchester police to investigate claims

By Peter Evans and Lucy Hodges

Mr James Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, yesterday announced the appointment of a senior officer from the force to investigate allegations of police brutality during the riots.

The inquiry will be conducted by Mr John Stalker, Assistant Chief Constable.

The Bishop of Manchester, the Right Rev. Stanley Rous, yesterday announced the appointment of a senior officer from the force to investigate allegations of police brutality during the riots.

The inquiry will be conducted by Mr John Stalker, Assistant Chief Constable.

Although they are anxious to protect their sources, they will suggest to witnesses that evidence be given to the inquiry in order that allegations can be properly investigated.

Mr Bode said there is not much confidence in the community at Moss Side in police inquiries into allegations against them.

Mrs Cox said yesterday that she had mentioned the allegations to Mr Desmond O'Brien, an assistant chief constable, and to Mr William Whitehead, the Home Secretary, during his visit to Manchester.

The police committee of the Labour Party, the Greater Manchester Council decided yesterday to recommend to the full council that a team should be appointed to conduct an independent inquiry into the circumstances which led up to the riots. The riots were handled by the police and leaders of the minority communities and what could be done to prevent a recurrence.

A proposal for Manchester City Council to hold an independent inquiry into the riots was defeated yesterday.

Mr Richard Clutterbuck, a politics lecturer at Exeter University and an expert on political violence, criticized yesterday's report in The Times.

Speaking on the BBC Radio 4 programme, Mr Clutterbuck said he had no accounts of injuries to policemen. "When you get that kind of reporting in the press it is grossly unbalanced and in my opinion irresponsible," he said.

"What you need is balance, and the balance is that in these 10 days of rioting not a single person was killed and not the best of my knowledge not a single rioter was seriously injured. I know of no police force in the world that would have a record like that, bearing in mind the intensity of some of these riots."

Mr Clutterbuck, who is the author of a recent book, The Media and Political Violence, said the report was "a gross distortion of the facts given by a doctor suggested that the police used violence."

Anyone who had seen people arrested by the police would know it's even money that they would fight like hell.

Bow Group urges Prior to tackle closed shops

By George Clark, Political Correspondent

The Government's second Bill on the trade unions, expected next session, must touch on the immunity of unions and their funds, and also tackle the obnoxious features of the closed shop, Mr George Gardiner, Conservative MP for Reigate, says in a Conservative Bow Group pamphlet published today.

His publication coincides with an analysis being made in the Commons by another Conservative, Mr Ivor Lawrence, QC, MP for Burton, for leave to introduce a Bill dealing with the closed shop and union immunities.

If it is put to the vote, it should provide Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, with a guide to the strength of feeling on the Tory backbenches for a more thorough-going Bill dealing with the closed shop and union immunities.

Mr Gardiner says that an analysis of the published submissions from the most significant employers and management bodies in response to Mr Prior's Green Paper on trade union immunities shows an extraordinary degree of unanimity.

That, with the clearly expressed view of Tory backbenchers, he says, gives Mr Prior a splendid opportunity to

Big budget rises in Ireland

From a Correspondent, Dublin

The Irish Government seemed certain last night to squeeze through its deflationary budget proposals for big increases in drink, cigarettes, petrol and VAT.

There were fears that the five independent members on whom the future of the coalition depends would vote against the Government and precipitate a general election. Dr Garret FitzGerald had given a warning earlier that the proposals were a matter of confidence.

The first of a series of votes on measures designed to deal with the "financial emergency" produced an 82-79 verdict in the government's favour.

Mr John Bruton, the Minister for Finance, said the measures were the first stage in a campaign to reconstruct the nation's finances on a secure

Councils shackled by MPs

By Christopher Warman, Local Government Correspondent

Local authorities in Scotland and soon perhaps in England and Wales could face the future as mere agents of central government as the result of a vote in the House of Commons last night.

By giving the Secretary of State for Scotland the power to withhold £47m grant from Lothian Regional Council and small amounts from Dundee and Stirling District Councils, the House placed local authorities in a straitjacket.

They are not allowed to raise a supplementary rate or to borrow to make good the loss. Either they must make the cuts in spending or end in bankruptcy.

At present English and Welsh authorities are empowered to raise supplementary rates but Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, is considering legislation which could similarly restrict them if this year's potential £800m overspending is not reduced.

Lothian's penalty of £47m compares with £53m which Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, originally announced he would withhold from the council.

The council now has a few days in which to submit a revised budget or to make representations to Mr Younger before he announces the final penalty.

It is possible that he will reduce the penalty to a level the council may be able to achieve.

Mr John Crichton, convenor of Lothian, said as he arrived in London to lead a delegation in opposition to the penalty that the council would "take the maximum possible advantage of the £47m which would mean redundancy for some 15,000 staff of the council, doubling unemployment in Lothian. That would be the only way to reduce spending by the amount required."

If the council refuses to make cuts, the proposed loss of government grant out of its £350m revenue budget could leave the council in difficulty in paying its bills.

The council's conscious that the situation is a "straitjacket" in the money market, will be eager to maintain its loans repayments.

In the unlikely event that it did not, lenders could go to the High Court to ask for the appointment of a receiver, who would have the power to levy a rate to recover the money, a measure as yet untested in practice.

Most senior local government members and officials believe that what is happening in Scotland now could happen in England next year.

For some time council leaders have complained that increasing government controls will spell the end of democratic local government. Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government, at a recent conference, agreed that unless councils achieve the Government's target "yes it will be the end of local government as we know it."

Parliamentary report, page 9

Group launched to keep Labour in the EEC

By Our Political Staff

A movement to keep a future Labour government in the European Community was launched at Westminster yesterday.

It has the short title of The Red Rose, the red rose being the symbol of the French and Spanish Socialist parties, and the long title of The Labour Movement for a Socialist Europe.

Its intention, declared on the day Labour's National Executive Committee approved a strategy for withdrawal from the Community, is to pick up the standard dropped by the disbanded Labour Committee for Europe, the body affiliated to the European Movement which coordinated the efforts of Labour pro-

MPs press plan to stem rise in racist attacks

By Lucy Hodges

A seven-point plan of action urging the Government to take immediate action to stem the increase in racist attacks on Asians has been presented to the Home Secretary by the all-party Joint Committee Against Racism.

It calls for specialized police units to monitor and investigate racist attacks, for racist agitators from abroad to be refused entry to Britain and for local authorities to be told not to allow public buildings to be used by racist organizations.

The report contains a confidential section listing racist attacks and vicious assaults by organized gangs which, the committee says, shows that a substantial number of such attacks are planned and premeditated and that many form part of a pattern of organized terror.

"Specialist action on racism listed is urgently required if the problems posed by racist attacks are to be dealt with," the committee says.

The report has gone to the Home Office as supplementary evidence for Mr William Whitelaw's own inquiry into racist attacks set up earlier this year. The inquiry is a family in Westminster this month which killed a mother and her three children. It also presses the Government to look at the possible use of arms by fascist organizations.

It asks ministers to hasten a review of the Public Order Act to give more priority to creating jobs and leisure activities

Man in the news Don who sparked off rail pay crisis

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

As the British Rail pay talks began at Euston yesterday the man whose tribunal findings sparked off the current wages crisis was back at his desk at Nuffield College refusing interview requests and trying to complete his standard work on strikes since the war.

If there is an industrial relations establishment, then Lord McCarthy, the small, bespectacled and unobtrusive Oxford don who has headed the Railway Staff National Tribunal since 1974, is part of it.

A Wilson peer who headed research for the Donovan commission on trade unions and for Mrs Barbara Castle's Employment Department, Lord McCarthy has kept intact his reputation as one of the country's most experienced mediators since he first started sorting out disputes in 1968.

His formidable pedigree did not stop one exasperated senior BR man last week from sounding off against the three-man tribunal and calling into question the future credibility of McCarthy as an arbitrator.

Lord McCarthy has never made any secret that he is a Labour man. He left school at 14, worked first in a men's outfitters, and then after the Army as a clerk.

It was his union, the old

Man in the news Lord McCarthy: High reputation as a mediator

When he worked for the Donovan commission he was the first academic to sit down and assess what shop stewards actually did in British industry, finding in a now often quoted phrase that they were more of a "lubricant" than an "irritant".

Although he has never publicly admitted it, he is known to have refused a job offered by Mr Heath on the commission for Industrial Relations, not so much because he himself was opposed to the commission, but because the unions were insisting that Lord McCarthy believed that it was doomed without the support of one side of industry.

All of which, coupled with the generosity of the board's point of view of his current recommendation of 10.5 per cent increase, might suggest that Lord McCarthy has a strong bias in favour of the Labour movement.

The other two members of the tribunal are Mr George Doughty, the former TASS general secretary, and Mr Ted Choppin, a former senior oil company executive, and since Lord McCarthy took over, the tribunal's decisions have always been essentially part of the machinery that the decisions are not binding on the parties.

Fire bomb attack on Asians

An Asian family were treated for the effects of smoke inhalation yesterday after a fire bomb attack on their home in Middlesbrough.

The house, in Aire Street, South Bank, was occupied by Mr Nurek Zaman, aged 21, his wife and his parents, aged 52 and 55, and Mr Zaman's 10-week-old son, Abu. Only the baby was detained in hospital, where his condition was satisfactory.

The baby was later allowed home.

The incident happened shortly after 2 am and the family were able to flee the terrace house quickly because, owing to the daylight flash from Ramadan, they were wearing nightgowns and slippers at night.

Police want to trace a white youth in his late teens who was seen running away. He was described as 5ft 10in tall, with short, dark curly hair and wearing a dirty denim jacket, dirty blue jeans and black boots.

Detective Chief Inspector Michael Birch, who is leading the inquiry, said the police were approaching the inquiry with an entirely open mind, but it was being treated very seriously because of the possible consequences.

Mr Zaman said: "Our relations with young white people in this area have worsened in recent months, but we never expected this."

Riot courts LOOTER IS JAILED FOR 3 MONTHS

Robin Patrick Baker, aged 26, unemployed, of Gopsall Street, Leicester, was sent to jail for three months by Leicester magistrates yesterday after admitting burglary and having an offensive weapon.

Three bars of soap and two toilet fresheners looted from a shop were found on him after he was arrested during rioting in the city.

Robert Hazell, aged 22, a Queens Park Rangers footballer, chose to go for trial at a crown court when charged at Birmingham with going equipped to steal petrol early on July 11 in the Kingstanding area of the city.

He is jointly charged with Peter Hazell, aged 17, brother and a youth aged 19, and Anthony Morton, aged 24, both unemployed, were jailed for six months by Maidstone Magistrates possessing petrol bombs.

Gerald O'Brien, aged 27, a BRC employee, of Bassett Road, North Kensington, who armed himself with an iron bar for protection against rioters in Notting Hill disturbances, recently was given an absolute discharge at Marylebone Court.

At the same court, Marie Price, alias Rasta Nymbin, aged 18, unemployed, of Lancaster Road, Notting Hill, denied having kned a policeman in the groin and punched him in the stomach. He was acquitted.

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Teacher training courses may be cut by a quarter

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

A proposal to cut by a quarter next year's intake into postgraduate teacher training courses is expected to be approved by the Government's Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers when it meets today.

The proposal is in a draft paper of advice to the Government on the future of the teacher training system in England and Wales. Earlier drafts have already been approved by the committee's teacher training and school staffing subcommittees.

No change is recommended in next year's intake into the three- and four-year Bachelor of Education courses, partly because enrolments last year were 40 per cent below the planned target and are expected to remain low, but mostly because an immediate reduction in the number of newly trained teachers is required and cutting the 1982 intake would not affect output numbers until 1985 or 1986.

The committee believes that the planned supply of newly trained teachers will substantially exceed the projected demand throughout the 1980s, though it questions some of the Department of Education and Science's more pessimistic figures, particularly those relating to the number of former teachers that are expected to return to the profession.

But even according to the committee's more optimistic projections, the total number of job vacancies for teachers is expected to fall from nearly 35,000 last year to 9,000-11,000 in 1981-82, and is expected to remain at below 25,000 for the rest of the decade.

The jobs available for newly trained teachers (as opposed to qualified teachers returning) are expected to fall from about 20,000 last year to about 5,500 in 1981-82, rising on the committee's best estimates to no more than 14,000 by 1989-90. Yet the present system is geared to produce about 17,000 newly trained teachers each year.

The committee recommends that in the long term the planned output should be lowered by about 10 per cent to 15,500. Allowing for the fact that about one in nine newly trained teachers do not seek teaching posts, that would yield about 13,500 a year.

It recommends that the cuts be made on a selective basis having regard to the needs of schools in terms of specialized subjects and phases (infant, primary and secondary), the quality of courses, the size of institutions and a reasonable geographical spread of provision.

The 25 per cent cut in the intake into the one-year Postgraduate Certificate in Education courses is intended as an emergency short-term measure.

Doctors 'can cure 500,000 smokers a year'

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

More than 500,000 people a year would stop smoking if all family doctors advised their patients to give it up and provided a leaflet about how to manage it, recent research shows.

A study carried out at the Maudsley Hospital, south London, has shown that five per cent of smokers stopped the habit when told by their doctors how and why to give up. They were still non-smokers a year later.

The Health Education Council, which published the findings in its annual report yesterday, said that at first sight the cessation rate seemed slight compared to the 20-30 per cent achieved by smoking withdrawal clinics, but on closer examination it was encouraging.

"At clinics the smokers are a small, self-selected, highly motivated group, led by a trained health professional. In this study the smokers were unselected."

"The important implication of this work is that a GP with an average list who adopts the routine of giving unsolicited advice and a leaflet to all smoking patients can expect 25 long-term successes each year," the report says.

On a national basis success of that kind would amount to 500,000 people giving up smoking a year.

Health Education Council: Annual Report 1980-81 (HEC, 78 New Oxford Street, London, WC1A 1AZ, free).

Whitehall's 'chief thinker' stays silent

The highbrow with a low profile

By Peter Hennessy

Today should have been a red letter day for Whitehall watchers. For the first time since leaving ICI and joining the Central Policy Review Staff as its director, Mr Robin Ibbs looked like being obliged to make a public appearance to explain before a Commons select committee what the "think tank" has been up to in the past 16 months.

Sadly, he will now retain his status as the invisible man of Whitehall at least until November, as the Treasury and Civil Service Committee, running out of time to prepare its interim report on nationalized industries finance, has asked would he mind forgoing his appointment this afternoon to talk about efficiency and value for money in the Civil Service.

By all accounts he was glad to accommodate the request, being very busy with his own study of the relationship between Whitehall and the public sector. Nor, it seems, was he enthusiastic about breaking the policy of silence that had led him to refuse all press interviews and invitations to give public lectures.

There is a double irony about this afternoon's non-event. For apart from keeping in touch, chiefly through the medium of Mr Richard Prescott, a principal on his staff, with the work of his Cabinet Office neighbour, Sir Derek Rayner, the Prime Minister's adviser on the elimination of waste, Mr Ibbs and his team have taken little or no interest in the questions preoccupying the committee in its efficiency inquiry.



Mr. Robin Ibbs: A ready smile.

Few people, by contrast, would be better placed to tell the committee's members about the condition of nationalized industry finance. But he was not asked to help with that investigation.

Up to now, Mr Ibbs's public appearances have been confined to the odd glimpse as he waits on the steps of 70 Whitehall for his car looking unsmilingly like Mr Rhodes Boyson, the Under Secretary of State at the Department of Education and Science, with his Dickensian mutton-chop whiskers and ready smile, plus the occasional sighting at Covent Garden where he indulges his passion for opera.

What kind of man is this self-effacing corporate planner who, to the near despair of think tank supporters in Whitehall, has added a new

dimension to the phrase "low-profile" by behaving as if he were that other, slightly unusual permanent secretary, known as "C" who heads a rather different think tank, the Secret Intelligence Service, just across Westminster Bridge?

By all accounts, Mr Ibbs is a pleasant and convivial person to work with. One of his staff described him as "the best listener I have ever met".

There are several differences between him and his predecessor, Sir Kenneth Berrill. Mr Ibbs writes few papers himself, but will intervene in other people's drafts if he thinks they are wrong.

He is well regarded as an adviser on industrial and economic matters by ministers, particularly the Prime Minister, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment. He has made a favourable impression at the Cabinet committees he attends.

One insider who has kept a close watch on the product of the rank under Mr Ibbs said: "On industrial matters it's a matter of 'Call for Robin'. You name the industry and they have been involved in it."

In terms of individual industries, in both the public and private sector, he has been pretty good at trying to get ministers to look rather more at the long term.

The nationalized industries study, which Mr Ibbs is completing at some speed with the assistance of the well-regarded Mr Paul Vaught, seconded to the think tank from BP, is keenly awaited in Whitehall. It is expected to be influential but there are no plans to publish it.

£15m flight simulator to speed retraining

By Arthur Reed, Air Correspondent

Pilots will learn to fly airliners in a new simulator centre costing £15m which was opened near Gatwick airport yesterday.

Captain P. A. Mackenzie, managing director of American Airlines Training Corporation, which has established the centre, said that by the end of this year pilots transferring from one type of jet airliner to another would be able to do so with "zero flight time training".

By using simulators, an airline could save up to £15,000 on teaching pilots to fly different aircraft.

Two airlines, based at Gatwick, British Caledonian and Laker Airways, have 10 year training agreements with the new centre. Other airlines which are to send pilots there are Finnair, of Finland, and Olympic, of Greece. Qantas, the Australian airline, is also very interested in using the facility.

The new centre has four bays, one with a Boeing 747 simulator, one with a McDonnell Douglas DC 10 simulator, one to be fitted with a Boeing 737 simulator, and one at present vacant.

The simulators are replicas of airliner flight decks which can reproduce, through hydraulic jacks, the movements of an aircraft. The aircrew under training can see through the cockpit windows sky and landscape images generated by a computer.

Government not to fight clamp on jury room

By Marcel Berlins

A decision by the Government not to try to reverse a House of Lords amendment to the Contempt of Court Bill means that the secrets of the juryroom will be almost totally protected from disclosure.

The Bill reaches its last stage today when the Commons debates amendments made to it by the House of Lords. The most significant was one which the Government lost in spite of a stirring speech by Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor.

The amendment, proposed by Lord Hutchinson, QC, goes much further than the Bill's original provisions. It will make it a contempt of court "to obtain, disclose or solicit any particulars of statements made, opinions expressed, arguments advanced, or votes cast by members of a jury in the course of their deliberations."

The Government's version would have made it a contempt of court to publish juryroom secrets, or obtain the information with a view to publishing it. Even then there would have been an exception if the publication did not identify the case or jurors.

The Lords amendment bans all disclosure whether or not publication is intended and whether or not the case can be identified. Supporters of the amendment pointed out that the Government's version would allow jurors to be questioned by members of the defendant's family for instance, or by researchers.

British is best for satellite

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence has acted as marriage broker in bringing together two British companies to build a new communications satellite for the Armed Forces.

The companies, British Aerospace and Marconi Space and Defence Systems (MSDS), have until now been rivals for a £100m contract, each teamed up with an American partner.

They were persuaded to come together to offer an all-British solution after the intervention of Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, and Lord Trenchard, Minister of State for Defence.

Mr Nott said yesterday: "We very much hope that co-operation between the firms will continue in future and that this will enable the United Kingdom to maintain a leading technological capability in space satellites."

The first of two satellites will be put into orbit in 1985, probably via the economical American shuttle. The other will act as a reserve. Defence sources say the first satellite will be the most advanced yet developed and will have a built-in defence against anti-satellite weapons.

The forces' last all-British satellite was SkyNet-2, which was launched in 1974 and still in use during the run-up to the elections in Zimbabwe last year.

The use of SkyNet declined after the ministry decided to use a common Nato facility. Last year the chiefs of staff concluded that they needed an exclusively British system after all, and the BAes/MSDS solution is the answer.

Although all the services will use the satellite, the Royal Navy is most in need of it. Vital forces, like the four submarines which carry Britain's Polaris missiles, will have a back-up system in case of emergency.

The British Aerospace Dynamics Division will make the satellite and will be the prime contractor, and Marconi will design the communications equipment inside.

Space watchers say there is a £500m satellite market to be fought over in the next few years, involving similar systems for Nato and the Third World, and an additional chance of meeting the demands of civil customers.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Defence has still to decide on names for its two next satellites. "Charles" and "Diana" were loyally offered by reporters

Choir quits after master is dismissed

From Our Correspondent Bradford

The principal choir of Bradford cathedral has resigned as a protest against the dismissal of Mr Keith Rhodes, their organist and choirmaster. He had held the posts for 17 years.

He was dismissed last week by the Provost of Bradford, the Very Rev. Brandon Jackson. He complained to Mr Rhodes of alleged lack of organization and of leniency.

There were three choirs and an orchestra at the cathedral. All the members of the Coates Choir, which has broadcast several times, made two recordings and toured abroad, have resigned.

Mr John Eastwood, a bass singer in the Coates Choir, said yesterday: "Mr Rhodes has established a tradition of fine choral music at the cathedral and had done his best to cooperate with the provost."

Mr Eastwood said the provost seemed to prefer the congregation to do most of the singing in the cathedral. He said: "It is a clash of personalities and Mr Rhodes is prepared to stick up for what he thinks is best."

There are 24 boys and eight men in the Coates Choir.

Mr Rhodes, of Briarwood Grove, Bradford, declined to comment in detail about his dismissal. He said: "They are domestic matters."

PROBATION FOR THE 'BOY' GIRL

A girl aged 17 who spent a night at an all-male detention centre after fooling police, lawyers and a court into thinking she was a boy was placed on probation for two years yesterday.

She appeared at Bradford Crown Court last Friday, under the name Sammy Maddocks, and pleaded guilty to five charges of burglary. Judge Bennett sentenced her to three months at a detention centre and it was only when she reached there that a medical examination revealed that she was a girl. She returned to court yesterday to receive a new sentence.

Mr Andrew Woolman, who appeared for the Crown at yesterday's hearing, said that probation officers had had difficulty tracing the girl before her trial, and had only seen her the night before the hearing, without her parents.

Former top civil servant wins libel damages

Mr Alan Blackshaw, the author and former top civil servant, received a public apology yesterday from a newspaper which named him in reports of an alleged "scandal" over North Sea oil grants.

Mr Blackshaw also accepted substantial undisclosed damages and legal costs in settlement of his High Court libel action against the Daily Mail and Mr Anthony Bevin, the political correspondent.

Mr Blackshaw's counsel, Mr David Eady, told Mr Justice Russell in London that the Daily Mail's allegations of a "£52m scandal" related to evidence given to the Public Accounts Committee about a grants scheme administered by the Department of Energy.

The scheme was to assist North Sea oil development companies who bought British goods and services.

Sir Jack Rampton, the department's Permanent Under-Secretary, had given evidence that a number of civil servants, including an under-secretary, had been reprimanded over breaches of the time-limited guidelines for payment of grants to oil companies.

In fact, counsel said, the breaches occurred without the knowledge of senior officers in the department, including Sir Jack Rampton, who was Director General of the Offshore Supplies Office in Glasgow from January, 1977, to September, 1978.

Sir Jack Rampton subsequently apologized for his error in stating that an under-secretary in Glasgow had been reprimanded.

It had since been publicly acknowledged that no public money was lost.

"Unfortunately, the article in the Daily Mail gave the impression that Mr Blackshaw's transfer from the Offshore Supplies Division to the Coal Division was in some way linked with the loss of large sums of public money."

As soon as the error in Sir Jack Rampton's evidence was made public, the newspaper published a front page article by Mr Bevin making clear that Mr Blackshaw was innocent of any blame.

February Mr Blackshaw, aged 47, of Friarsbrake House, Lillingthorpe, West Lothian, was awarded £45,000 damages by a libel jury against The Daily Telegraph over similar allegations.



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Japan faces trade war over sperm whale hunt curb

From Nicholas Timmins, Brighton

The International Whaling Commission was heading yesterday towards a crisis over a proposed ban on hunting sperm whales that could lead to a trade war between Japan and the United States.

Such a step would come at a time when Japan and the United States are involved in delicate negotiations over Japanese exports of cars, electronics and other goods.

The crisis arose after the commission's technical committee passed by 17 votes to five, with five abstentions, a proposal, supported by the United Kingdom, which would halt the commercial hunting of sperm whales.

After the vote Mr Kunio Yonizawa, the Japanese commissioner, said that if the proposal was passed at the commission's plenary session later this week he would recommend to his Government that Japan exercise its right to object to the decision and carry on its sperm whale hunt.

The statement, however, brought replies from two United States Congressmen attending the commission's meeting in Brighton, who said that they would press for United States legislation limiting the access of Japanese fishing fleets to the United States waters to be brought into effect.

They would also press for the implementation of the Pelly amendment, which empowers the United States to embargo fishery exports from any country whose whaling operations interfere with international conservation programmes.

Yesterday both the Japanese and the United States were involved in intensive lobbying of the five countries who abstained in the technical committee vote.

The latter were trying to ensure the vote survives in the plenary session. The former were trying to persuade one of the five countries, Spain, Chile, Norway, China and Brazil, to vote against the proposal, which needs a three-quarters majority to be passed.

Forum plan on abuse of alcohol

By Our Health Services Correspondent

People in the drinks industry and those concerned with the misuse of alcohol should join together and form a forum to curb abuse, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday.

A drunk was not a good advertisement for the product, so the industry was keen to stamp out abuse, he told the annual meeting in London of the National Council on Alcoholism.

The industry was already paying for the cost of development director of the Alcohol Education Centre and part of the research fund of the Medical Council of Alcoholism. Its concern had been demonstrated, Mr Jenkin said.

"What we now need is agreement by all concerned to carry these initiatives forward and to build on the common ground. To continue as if there were open warfare no longer makes sense."

One idea was to establish a national alcohol affairs commission. That has been proposed by the National Council of Women and supported by the Magistrates' Association. But it was government policy to reduce the number of public bodies.

He preferred the idea of a body, perhaps called The Alcohol Forum, whose initiative and momentum would come from the industry and those concerned with the dangers of alcoholism, rather than the Government.

Mr Jenkin said that between 15 and 30 per cent of men admitted to general medical, surgical and casualty departments in hospitals had serious drinking problems.

The Brower Society yesterday welcomed Mr Jenkin's initiative and said it had already convened such a group concerned with drinking among the young.

"While problem drinking in the United Kingdom is much less than in almost every other comparable country, it is a serious matter for a minority

£35m tank deal nears signing

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

Britain expects to complete a deal to sell 35 Chieftain tanks to Oman, on the Gulf, before the end of this year. Unofficial estimates say that the contract should be worth about £35m.

Twelve Chieftains are about to be leased to Sultan Qaboos, Oman's ruler, in time for a show of strength on the country's national day next November.

Ministry of Defence sources in London yesterday refused to confirm any negotiations between the British Government and the Omanis. Unofficial reports suggest the deal is more or less complete.

The Sultan, who overthrew his father in a bloodless coup more than a decade ago, originally asked Britain for a number of Chieftains in time for last year's national day. But they could not be delivered in time, so he was forced to go to the Americans instead for a number of M-60s. His close tie with Britain has eventually led him towards the Chieftain as his permanent solution.

Britain will have to raise its own War Maintenance Reserve for the 35 tanks required by the Sultan to lay the foundations of a new Omani armoured corps. Sources say the effect on the reserve will not be serious and can easily be made good, perhaps when the new Challenger tank comes into service with the British Army of the Rhine.

British ties with Oman have been close throughout Sultan Qaboos's rule, and several hundred British officers and NCOs, including members of the Special Air Service Regiment, led his forces in their 10-year war against incursions from South Yemen.

A number of British personnel, either retired soldiers on contract or serving members of Britain's forces on secondment, are still there.

Oman's position overlooking the Straits of Hormuz and the important oil routes to the West give it a unique strategic value.

Tenerife air crash claims being settled

By Arthur Reed, Air Correspondent

Dan-Air, the British independent airline whose Boeing 722 airliner crashed into a mountainside in Tenerife in April last year, has so far settled 17 claims for compensation from relatives of the 146 people on board who died.

The airline said yesterday that it was negotiating settlement of a number of others.

"Where claims have been received in respect of passengers in this accident, we have indicated through our solicitors that we are prepared on a no prejudice basis to settle any claim, subject to the provisions and limitations of the amended Warsaw Convention."

Britain and practically every foreign state subscribe to the rules of the Warsaw Convention, drawn up by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, the United Nations aviation body, and so named because it was completed in the Polish city.

The convention was amended by the Hague protocol of 1955 and today provides for an upper limit of about £9,600 for individual compensation, a small sum by today's standards.

For that reason, some governments write higher sums of compensation into the operating licences of their airlines. The figure demanded of British airlines by the Civil Aviation Authority and the Department of Trade is £55,000.

At the time of the Dan-Air accident the upper limit for international flights was £9,600.

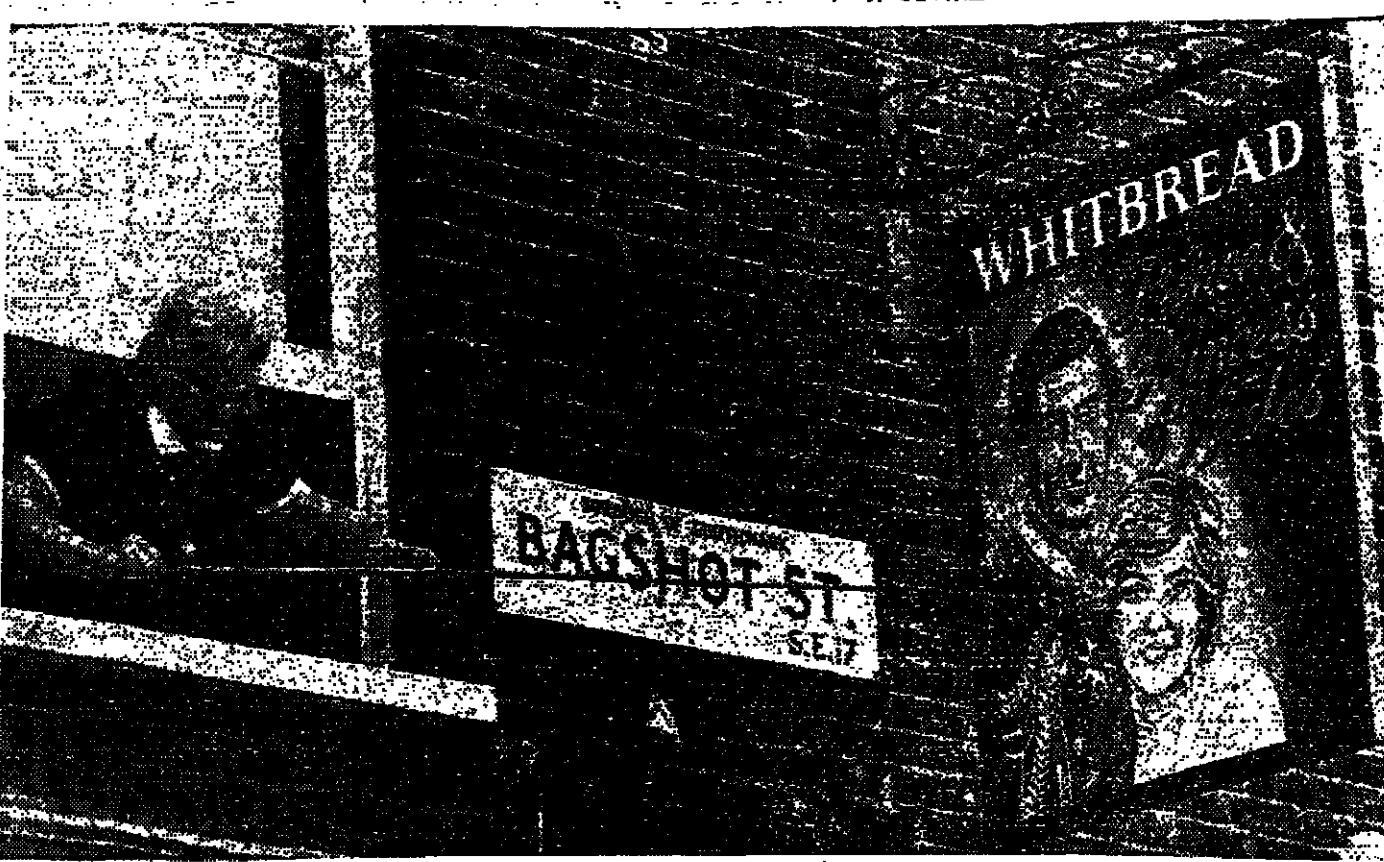
The amount of compensation for the families of accident victims is generally negotiated between solicitors representing them and the airline insurers.

It will depend on a number of factors, including the potential earning capacity of a victim. In the case of dispute the courts are asked to adjudicate.

"Because governments write their own limits, rates for compensation after air accidents vary widely around the world. In a few cases they are as high as the British figure, but most countries still apply the £9,600 limit."

It is open to dependents to sue for reckless misconduct in an effort to obtain higher compensation, but such actions can be expensive in legal fees, with no certainty of success.

Some countries have no fixed compensation rates for internal flights. The United States is among them, which is why after domestic air accidents there, suits claiming millions of dollars are filed in individual cases against airlines and aircraft manufacturers.



Sign of the times: Mrs Vi Lee, pub landlady, dusts her contribution for July 29, which is also her own birthday.

How the Queen's purse will suffer

By Robin Young

It is doubtful if even the Queen knows precisely how large a hole this royal wedding next Wednesday will make in her heavy purse, which will bear much of the expense. The total costs for all parties must exceed £500,000.

The Department of the Environment is spending £50,000 on decorating the ceremonial route down the Mall and on floral decorations outside St Paul's Cathedral.

The department's contribution also includes 697 ft of red carpet to go down the cathedral aisle and into the side chapel where the royal couple will sign the register.

The City of London has allowed £13,000 for crowd barriers and for 60 loudspeakers to relay the service to the crowds lining the route within the city boundaries.

The expense will be recouped, however, from fees charged to cameramen and film crews using the City's Juxon House, which overlooks the steps of St Paul's.

The City of Westminster is budgeting £30,000 for decorations, sending its portion of the route, cleaning up afterwards and paying wages of staff on duty.

The cost of security is the largest item in the bill. Up to 4,000 policemen will be on duty. If the royal family were paying the special duty rate charged to football clubs and so on, of £9.50 an hour, the bill would be £316,800, but royal weddings are normal duties to policemen.

so the bill, not precisely quantifiable, will be considerably less.

The Queen's personal expenditure included about £800 for the cathedral, £2,000 on flowers, the music and fanfares at the printing bills of more than £5,000, perhaps £6,500 on the private reception at Buckingham Palace, and as much as £10,000 for the wedding cake.

The wedding party's clothes, including bridesmaids' dresses and pageboys' costumes, would account for another £5,000.

The Prince of Wales will be paying for posies for the bridesmaids, buttonholes for his brothers and ushers, and about £1,000 for the ring. There are also likely to be gifts for the five bridesmaids and two pageboys at about £100 each.

There will be 2,228 officers and Servicemen lining the processional routes. If their pay is added into the account the bill would be £45,000. As with the police, though, most would be paid the same rate in any case, so the bill really involves transporting and feeding them for the day.

The cost of a honeymoon on the royal yacht Britannia is also difficult to quantify, but as the vessel's running costs are £2.7m a year, £100,000 seems a reasonable estimate for the fortnight.

None of that is of great concern to Mr William Hamilton, Labour MP for Fife Central, who is well known for his criticism of royal expenses.

"The overtime for police, the



The royal wedding

The unarmed officers, who form most of BA's security team, will check security arrangements at about 200 airports but will concentrate on countries sending heads of state to the wedding.

They include EEC countries and members of Nato and the Commonwealth. Mrs Nan Reagan, the United States President's wife will arrive tomorrow and there will be a steady stream of VIPs arriving over the weekend.

The security men who will liaise with local Special Branch officers, have been supplied with a list of known or suspected terrorists.

A BA spokesman said: "If Jim Smith, whom we suspect of being involved in terrorist attacks, suddenly disappears from his home in Kent, then we would want to know why."

"We have altered our staff around the world to have extra vigilance at this time. We are aware that any act of terrorism because of the wedding."

Additional security measures will include vetting all passengers flying to London from abroad and a check of baggage. Although two foreign airlines said they had no apparent changes in security, it is likely that most airlines will maintain tight measures for the gathering of dozens of heads of state and with the eyes of the world focused on London.

wedding (John Witherow writes).

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Science report Flycatcher can get away with bigamy

By the Staff of "Nature"

Pied flycatchers are bigamous, a group of Swedish ornithologists has discovered. The female pied flycatcher keeps herself and her offspring secure by nesting in a hole in a tree—but the result is that her mate has no need to defend a territory, and is free to leave her behind in the hole and go off in search of other females.

A recent study around Uppsala, Sweden, shows that more than a quarter of the male pied flycatchers succeed in keeping one mate in a hole in one part of the wood, and a second in another hole a safe distance away.

Most species of bird are monogamous, so exceptions are of great interest to biologists attempting to explain the evolution of social systems.

The case of the pied flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*) is particularly puzzling because no sooner has the bigamous male deceived a second female and installed her in a new hole than he almost instantly abandons her. He fetches and carries food for his first mate and helps feed the nestlings, but rarely visits the second mate who has to feed herself as well as raise the young.

Why the second female tolerate such a situation when, on finding herself abandoned, she could give up her nest hole and go and look for a new monogamous mate, has not been explained. Is there actually some hidden benefit to being a second mate?

There are two ways in which females might gain some advantage—in evolutionary terms—that simply mean leaving their first mate to marry with a bigamous male. Bigamous males may actually be "super-males", of such high quality that even being their second mate is preferable, in terms of quality nest site, to being the mate of an ordinary male.

However, the Swedish researchers showed that although bigamous males are bigger and older than monogamous males, they provide less parental care. The second female, she lays fewer eggs and her young are more likely to die of starvation than those of females paired with a monogamous male.

A second possibility is that the second female receives a much more indirect benefit. Her own sons might inherit their father's propensity to bigamy and in turn mate with more than one female. The second female's lack of offspring will then be compensated for by a greater number of offspring in later generations, so that she eventually does have more descendants than a female mated to a monogamous male.

A simple calculation shows, however, that any advantage the female might gain from having bigamous sons is only outweighed by the disadvantage of producing few offspring if her sons go on to be a successful bigamist. That is clearly impossible, because there are almost as many females as males for every bird to practise bigamy.

The explanation for the second female's fidelity to her bigamous mate seems instead to lie in the shortness of the Swedish summer.

The researchers secured the number of offspring left behind by females who begin laying eggs on different dates, and found that each day's delay drastically reduced the chances of successfully rearing young.

The second female simply has no choice once she has been deceived. If she abandons her eggs and searches for another male the season will be too advanced for her to have a partner to rear the young, and she will be even worse off than if she stayed with her original bigamist. The pressure to mate as quickly as possible in the short season is a factor in the courtship usual in birds and further increases the bigamist's chances of deceiving a second mate about his true status.

A group of scientists may well have discovered a unique set of circumstances in which the female bird can be successfully deceived. They are now going to go on and look at other Swedish birds, nesting in holes to see if their males succeed in getting away with bigamy too.

Source: *The American Naturalist*, vol 117, p 738 (1981). © Nature-Times News Service 1981.

IN BRIEF

Ton of cannabis seized in 10 raids

Customs inspectors have seized more than a ton of cannabis resin valued at £125,000. They raided 10 houses in London, Surrey and Hampshire.

Ten people were being questioned by Customs yesterday. A spokesman said that investigations had been made for 14 months and were continuing.

Trawler taken

Anthony Huggan, of Avon Green, Fleetwood, Lancashire, was ordered yesterday to pay a crawler owner £925 compensation for loss of earnings by taking the 30-ton fishing vessel, Glen Carron, without consent.

Heavy reading

Lincolnshire County Council is to streamline its administration after a check disclosed that a set of committee documents for a year was almost three feet high and weighed more than half a hundredweight. The number of committees is to be cut from 54 to 29.

Pilgrim bell

The American descendants of one of the Pilgrim Fathers, John Howland, have paid for a new bell which was hung yesterday in the parish church in Fenstanton, Cambridgeshire, where he was born. The bell, cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London, cost nearly £3,000.

Farm mishap

Mrs Hilary Echeridge, aged 31, was caught up in a cord trailing from a farm baler in Thaxted, Essex, yesterday and dragged 30 feet along the ground. Mrs Echeridge, of Dumow Road, Bishop's Cleeve, Hertfordshire, was said to be "fairly comfortable" in hospital last night.

Train death

Mr John Wood, aged 53, of Charles Close, Newmarket, was killed yesterday when he was struck by a train at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. He had been missing from the psychiatric unit at West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds.

Conductor taken ill

Rafael Kubelick, who was to have conducted the European Community Youth Orchestra at the Albert Hall, in London, on Sunday, has been taken ill and his place will be filled by Claudio Abbado, the orchestra's musical director.

Children's games

The world's international disabled children's games will take place at Gateshead stadium, near Newcastle upon Tyne, between August 5 and 9. Children from 19 countries will compete. The National Westminster Bank has given £40,000 towards the costs.

1,000 firms asked to give disabled a better chance

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

On the eve of the Manpower Services Commission report recommending abolition of the quota for disabled workers, both sides of industry and the Government are stepping up action to persuade more employers to take on disabled staff.

At a conference convened by the Trades Union Congress in London yesterday more than 200 delegates from trade unions and disability organizations were told that a booklet is being prepared to help shop stewards to promote better understanding of opportunities for disabled people.

Today the top 1,000 companies in Britain will be urged in a joint letter from Government and industry to have boardroom discussions on how they can contribute more to the independence and integration of the disabled.

The signatories are: Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment; Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry; Sir Richard O'Brien, chairman of the MSC; and Lord Snowden, president of the International Year of Disabled People, England.

The letter includes a discussion brief asking, inter alia, whether companies are fulfilling

ing the quota which requires them to employ 3 per cent disabled workers if their workforce exceeds 19.

They are also asked to discuss four main points from the brief: a more positive approach to give disabled people the same chance as able-bodied people in employment; a review of products and services to make them usable by physically handicapped people; a drive to ensure that disabled employees and customers can have better access to offices, factories and showrooms; and more use of existing facilities including grants of up to £5,000 to adapt premises, machinery and equipment.

The TUC is to draw up a policy statement based on yesterday's conference discussions and a background paper outlining possible areas of action. Its booklet on promoting equality of job opportunities for disabled people is being prepared in conjunction with the MSC.

The TUC is also to extend its monitoring of public spending cuts to focus on local authority services for the disabled. A special edition of the TUC cuts checklist papers is intended to publicize the effects of government policies on services for the handicapped.

Dossing jail law stays

By Tony Samstag

The Government has decided to retain the option of prison sentences for persons convicted of begging or sleeping rough. The decision was published yesterday as a reply to the third report from the Home Affairs Committee on Vagrancy Offences.

That report, published in May, attracted strong bipartisan criticism for recommending no changes in the 1824 law on dossing and begging, although it did recommend that the offences cease to be imprisonable.

In what amounted to a minority report, Mr Robert Kilroy Gill, Labour MP for Ormskirk, had proposed repeal of the two offences, and suggested that a third offence of being found in an empty house be replaced by specific amendments to the Theft Act. He was supported by three out of his four Labour colleagues on the committee.

In its reply the Government says it is "greatly concerned to ensure that the use of imprisonment generally is kept to a minimum, but believes that, in relation to the two offences in question, removal of the power to imprison would be of very limited beneficial effect."

The maximum penalty for begging is one month in prison or a £200 fine and for sleeping rough three months, or a £200 fine.

LIFE FOR 'BESTIAL' RAPIST

John McGrath, aged 38, of Gaskarth Road, Tooting, south London, who terrorized and raped women in Surrey, was jailed for life at the Central Criminal Court.

Judge Lawson told him that he hoped he would not be released until he had lost his sexual urges. The crimes, he said, were bestial and the case was one of the most horrific he had heard.

Miss Ann Curnow, for the prosecution, had said that Mr McGrath had raped women in Wimbledon, Ewell and Kingston. He chose houses next to golf courses to rob, and during the woman's ordeal always talked of the length of sentence he could get for the attack.

Mr McGrath had denied charges of raping two women, indecently assaulting another, burglary and theft.

Mr Gilmore Gray, QC, for the defence, said there was no dispute that the rapes and robberies had taken place and that they were horrifying, but Mr McGrath was not responsible.

Rail services saved

British Rail has decided to maintain peak-hour commuter trains on the Cotswold line from Worcester to Oxford at least until next year. It had threatened to end Inter-City services on the line.

BURGLAR IS CLEARED OF RAPE

A man who had sexual intercourse with a girl student after breaking into a flat armed with a length of copper piping was cleared of rape yesterday at Nottingham Crown Court.

Neil Clarke, aged 24, an unemployed miner, of Thoraby Road, Mansfield, Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire, was acquitted of aggravated burglary and possessing an offensive weapon.

He was acquitted of rape but Mr Justice Peter Pain ruled that his identity could be published in the public interest.

The girl, aged 17, said she submitted to sex after Clarke threatened to break her boyfriend's knee caps.

VC at veterans' reunion

From Our Correspondent, Sunderland

Thirty old soldiers from the First World War met yesterday at an unofficial reunion. They were invited to Sunderland polytechnic by Mr Peter Liddle, the college's senior lecturer in history.

He started in 1964 collecting material relating to the war and his archives now include documents and taped recollections from more than 4,000 veterans.

One of those, Mr Frank Mullens, aged 85, of Honiton, Devon, visited Mr Liddle to study his own documents and the idea of a reunion was born.

"The day has been a great success, and we are going to do it again," Mr Liddle said.

One of the visitors was Major Edward Cooper, VC, aged 85, of Stockton-on-Tees. He won the Victoria Cross while serving with The King's Royal Rifle Corps in Ypres in 1917.

"There were 45 men and seven machine-guns holed up in a pill box," he said. "I managed to get round the back and

MP GETS LIBEL DAMAGES

Sir Frederic Benett, Conservative MP for Torbay, yesterday accepted "large" undisclosed damages and his legal costs in settlement of a High Court libel action against Express Newspapers.

Sir Frederic, of Cwmelleclog, Aberangell, Pwys, had complained of remarks about him in the Sunday Express Crossbencher column on December 28, 1980.

Mr Charles Gray, his counsel, told Mr Justice Russell that no useful purpose would be served in repeating the gratuitously offensive imputations, based on a poll supposedly conducted among MPs.

Express Newspapers accepted that no such poll as that described in the Crossbencher article in fact took place.

Mr Desmond Browne, for Express Newspapers, apologized to Sir Frederic.

Sale advice to tenants

Tenants who believe they have been wrongly denied the right to buy their council houses should take legal advice to see if they can challenge the decision in the courts. Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction, said yesterday in a Commons written reply.

It was ultimately for the county courts to decide a tenant's right to buy under the Housing Act, 1980, he said.

The Act confers that right on most local authority and new tenants and some housing association tenants; exceptions are few. Since it became law last October about a quarter of a million tenants have applied to buy.

The Government has warned 39 local authorities about their poor rate of progress on sales, but only Greenwich council, in south-east London, is under threat of intervention.



Moving house: Monty, London Zoo's 11ft two-year-old giraffe, leaving Regent's Park yesterday for a new life at Whipsnade.

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Commonwealth changes venue in rugby protest

By David Spanier, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain gave reluctant support yesterday to the Commonwealth decision to move the Commonwealth Finance Ministers meeting from New Zealand to the Bahamas next September in protest against the South African rugby tour of New Zealand.

But the British made it clear yesterday that they regretted the decision to change the venue, which was not felt to be justified.

The decision was confirmed—as expected—at the meeting of the Commonwealth Southern Africa Committee, held in London. The committee noted with regret that the Springboks had arrived in New Zealand to begin their tour and the strong feelings that this had aroused.

The committee agreed that the venue of the finance ministers' meeting should be changed, and accepted the offer of the Bahamas Government to host the meeting in Nassau.

Mr Leslie Gandar, the New Zealand representative at the High Commission, dissented from yesterday's decision. He said it was damaging to the most important tradition of the Commonwealth to overrule the strongly held views of a country whose record on human rights was second to none.

New Zealand remained opposed to apartheid and the meeting was missing its target in South Africa by half the globe, he said.

The British Government also made it clear that it accepted the consensus view reluctantly. A statement by the Foreign Office said that in the interests of Commonwealth harmony, Britain had accepted the overwhelming consensus of the meeting that the venue of the finance ministers' meeting should be changed.

The row looks like surfacing again more seriously at the coming Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Melbourne at the end of September. Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, will be under strong pressure from African and Caribbean countries to bar sporting contacts with South Africa.

Wellington: Mr Robert Muldoon, the New Zealand Prime Minister, said last night he would boycott the Commonwealth finance ministers meeting now that it had been moved from Auckland to the Bahamas (Reuters reports).

He said: "The result of the decision in London is that there is now a new element in the Commonwealth association. The decision disappoints me because this kind of action has come into the Commonwealth for the first time."

Wave of arrests before first Springboks match

Gisborne, New Zealand, Wednesday morning—Police arrested 38 demonstrators early today outside a hotel where the South African Springboks rugby team was staying on the eve of its opening match in New Zealand.

A senior police spokesman said the arrests had been made without violence and that 27 men and 11 women were being detained for causing a breach of the peace.

The demonstrators were all members of the Hail All Racial Tours group, one of the leading organizations opposing the tour in protest against apartheid in South Africa.

The arrests nearly doubled the number of anti-tour demonstrators who have been picked up since the Springboks landed at Auckland on Sunday. Seventy-two people have been detained at demonstrations in Gisborne and Auckland, but many of them have been released without being charged.

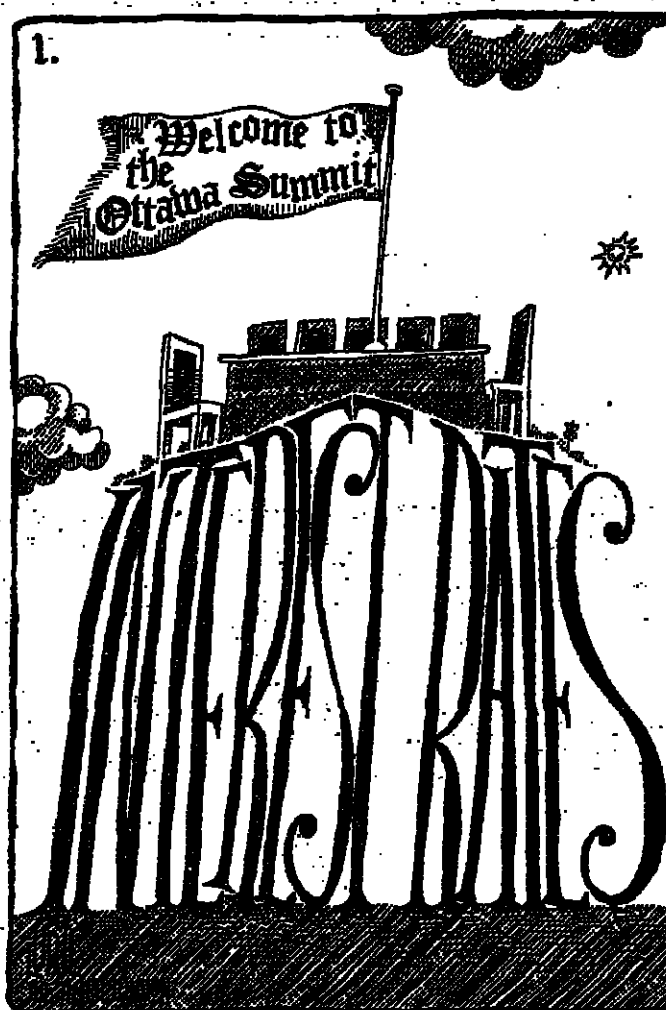
The 15,000 fans expected to attend the opening match of the tour in Gisborne today have been warned that they may be bombed by tear gas from a helicopter (Our Correspondent writes).

Gisborne police issued the warning after receiving a statement that demonstrators were intending to drop gas on the players and spectators from an unmarked helicopter.

The level of protest in Gisborne was stepped up yesterday when four people in a Land-Rover crashed through the barriers of the match venue at Rugby Park and scattered broken glass across the playing area.

Until then it had been a quiet day in Gisborne with the Springboks undergoing their final training run under the usual police guard.

There is no doubt that the first game of the tour will be played in front of the largest police force ever assembled for crowd control at a New Zealand sports match.



BOMB IN LAUSANNE STORE

From Ian McGregor, Geneva, July 21

Fifteen people were taken to hospital in Lausanne today after a bomb exploded in the ladies' section of a department store—the third such incident in Switzerland in as many days. Responsibility was claimed by the June 6 Organization, believed to be an underground Armenian group.

Most of the injured sustained leg wounds caused by flying debris. Their condition is said to be "generally satisfactory." Other persons were treated at doctors' surgeries.

The management also received an anonymous phone call indicating that other bombs might be hidden elsewhere in the building, which was searched by a police anti-bomb squad brought from Zurich by helicopter. Damage was described as considerable.

The explosion yesterday was at a Kloten airport, Zurich, where five persons sustained minor injuries and damage was put at \$75,000.

In telephone calls to the Geneva office of Agence France Presse, the June 6 Organization said all three explosions were its work. A young Armenian was arrested on June 9 after the murder of a member of the Turkish consulate staff here.

Agca refuses to appear in court

From Peter Nichols, Rome, July 21

Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk accused of attempting to murder the Pope, refused to appear in court today and missed hearing himself described by the public prosecutor as a seeker after the role of the negative hero, "drawing a sinister glory from the greatness of his victim."

Dr Nicola Amato, the public prosecutor, asked for life imprisonment. This was the second day of the trial and Mr Agca's gesture not to attend proceedings was consistent with his refusal yesterday to accept the court's jurisdiction.

He argued that he was not an Italian and had committed the offence on Vatican territory and should therefore be tried by the Vatican, not the Italians. He said that he would begin a hunger strike on December 20 if his demands had not been met by then.

The prosecutor spoke of the "shocking obscenity of the crime, confessing that even he did not feel the same man after the attempt on the Pope's life on May 13.

"Terrorism has arrived in St Peter's," he said, "in the cathedral of Catholicism and this is a fact which must make one think." In a brief sketch of the accused, he said that at the age of 17 (Mr Agca is now 23) he was already a terrorist, trained in the use of firearms.

Even in front of his judges he did not conceal his true nature, saying in fact: "I am an international terrorist and I have had contacts with the terrorists of half of Europe and the Middle East."

The prosecutor was emotional rather than juridical. This is partly in Dr Amato's somewhat exuberant character but at the same time he was basing his case on the enormity of an attack on the Pope's life.

Indirectly he was answering Mr Agca's own strictly juridical plea that he had attacked a foreign head of state outside Italy and so the court did not have competence to try the case.

The prosecutor's apostrophizing of the Pope was on equally passionate lines.

"Like Gandhi, like John Fitzgerald and Robert Kennedy, like Martin Luther King, like Aldo Moro, like Paul VI—you are a man of peace, of hope and of life, paladin of justice, the ideal knight, you belong to the whole world and to all men you belong to history and to the expectations of the entire humanity, you struggle for universal and eternal truth."

If this is what is at stake at the trial, the implication goes, what do a few juridical doubts matter?

France bars boycott clauses in contracts

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, July 21

The Socialist Government's determination to bring French policy in tune with principle, both in home and foreign affairs, has already involved it in contradictions and complications over such matters as arms sales, the extradition of terrorists, and the application of the amnesty to press offences. It has just taken another step in that direction by a ministerial circular cancelling all exemptions to the anti-boycott law of 1977, which forbade discriminatory clauses against Israel in commercial agreements signed with the Arab countries.

The law was at the time voted unanimously by Parliament. It was designed to bring French legislation in tune with international practice, and in particular with the United Nations convention of 1966 on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, and with the practice of the European Community.

But in response to the fears expressed by French business circles at the time that the anti-boycott law would prove damaging to trade with Arab countries, Mr Raymond Barre, who was then Prime Minister, issued a directive exempting from the scope of the anti-boycott law contracts by which French firms signed with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and developing countries which included such discriminatory clauses.

M. François Mitterrand when he was candidate for the presidency, undertook to abolish this exemption, but M. Michel Jobert, the Minister for overseas trade, about a month ago attempted by a subtle distinction between the boycott of a state, which was a fact, and the boycott of a people, which was a racist or racialist motive, to limit the scope of the undertaking and its repercussions on business with the Arab countries.

He seems to have been overruled as the circular just published proclaims the Government's intention to brand as intolerable "racialist practices in our society."

It has, however, left itself a loophole. The circular stipulates that the penalties provided for by the law can be suspended where the discrimination involved arises from official directives concerning the application of the Government's international commitments.

In other words, it reserves the right to apply the law on a case-by-case basis. The representatives of Jewish institutions in France, however, expressed satisfaction with the abolition of the previous Government's directive, which, it claimed, emptied the anti-boycott law of all content.

The Foreign Ministry last night stated the French Government's position on the possible reconstruction of the Tamuz nuclear research centre in Iraq. President Saddam Hussein of Iraq at a press conference on Sunday insisted that France should adopt a clearer and less cautious approach. But made it clear, however, that the subject had not yet been raised officially.

The Foreign Ministry said that France defended the right of access to nuclear technology of developing countries, and was ready to assist them in the matter provided it received the necessary guarantees of the peaceful uses of this technology in order to guard against the risks of proliferation.

Rasputin film fascinates Moscow

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, July 21

A powerful and controversial film about the monk Rasputin, whose sinister role in the fall of the Russian monarchy has long fascinated Russians and Westerners alike, was shown for the first time to a Moscow audience last night. The film had been lying on the censor's shelf for eight years while the authorities argued over it.

The film, *Agony*, breaks all Soviet traditions in dealing with the most sensitive period of Russian history, and news of its release has already caused a sensation in Moscow. A huge crowd besieged the cinema where it was shown, uncaring of the closing day of the otherwise very dull Moscow film festival.

Not only are the acting and photography outstanding, but the film includes remarkable footage from Soviet archives showing the dying days of the doomed regime: wounded soldiers being fitted with artificial limbs, bishops blessing the troops before battle, the elegance and the poverty in St Petersburg.

For the first time the turbulent events of 1916 are interlarded with a glorification of the workers, and with barely any reference to the Bolsheviks and the revolutionaries.

Tsar Nicholas II, played with striking verisimilitude by Valera Linnik, is portrayed in human and almost sympathetic terms as a proud and weak man unable to comprehend the crisis around him.

Scheming and corruption in the film shows unusually that there were honourable men in the Duma, the Russian Parliament, and in the ruling class, who tried to save Russia from the coming catastrophe.

Petersenko, played by Alexei Petersenko, is a cunning, ruthless hold over the royal family are powerfully drawn. But he is no caricature: his links to the Russian peasantry and his exploitation of the Orthodox Church are detailed with almost documentary precision.

Elem Klimov, the director, uses the black-and-white film of the carnage on the battlefields, and the stark and poverty in St Petersburg, as a



Rasputin: Ruthless hold

bitter comment on Rasputin's influence and on the dithering at court, and the gulf between the rulers and ruled. But symbolism replaces propaganda, cinema replaces the usual preaching on the subject.

The orthodox interpretation of the end of the empire is still so mired in taboo that few Russians really know how to represent it except in clichés. Few books or films have attempted to show the grandeur, as well as the folly, of the burgeoning industrial might as well as the strikes.

The official Soviet view is that individuals such as Rasputin had little more than marginal influence standing against the tide of history. His central role in the film makes good cinema but is not a class-oriented view of history.

But nowadays there is a fascination with the break-up of the Tsarist empire, a nostalgia for a world now so remote which yet still existed when most of the members of the present Politburo were boys.

Two years ago, a controversial novel, *The First Frontiers*, serialized in a literary journal, represented Rasputin as a weapon in the hands of Zionists and a confidant of the royal family. It was bitterly attacked by the Soviet press for antisemitism and the sensationalist treatment of sex, but because it failed also to give a class view of history.

The Soviet authorities have said the film will be shown—probably with heavy censorship—on television in the autumn. But so much is the subject that if public curiosity is too great the film, highly praised by Russians and Westerners in the audience alike last night, might well return to the censor's shelf.

Police swoop again on Cape shanty dwellers

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, July 21

For the fourth day in less than a week South African police today smashed the flimsy shelters of corrugated iron, wood, and plastic sheeting erected by homeless blacks evicted from Langa township outside Cape Town, and made dozens of arrests.

Police and officials of the Western Cape Administration Board not actually involved in the arrests and demolitions, watched as blacks, many of them women with babies, were herded into police vans and driven off.

Raids by police and administration board officials on blacks who have no official passes set up in Cape Town area, began last week. The victims were mainly the wives and children of men from Transkei. Many of the men are legally in Cape Town, and this is a fact which must make one think. In a brief sketch of the accused, he said that at the age of 17 (Mr Agca is now 23) he was already a terrorist, trained in the use of firearms.

Since police and officials began raids last week on "illegal" squatters in Nyanga township, scores of blacks have moved into the adjoining Langa township and thrown up temporary shacks with whatever materials they can find to shelter from bitter midwinter weather.

As fast as they have built their shelters, the police and officials have torn them down.

Meanwhile, the row continues over racist remarks attributed to two magistrates appointed to handle some of the hundreds of cases of people arrested and charged with being illegally in the area.

Mr Jasper Fourie, normally a senior prosecutor who was appointed a temporary magistrate in Langa township, is reported to have told one woman charged with illegal residence: "I suppose you sleep with a different man every night."

Six killed in terror feud

Paris, July 21

M. Jacques Massie, aged 41, a police inspector, four members of his family and a friend, who disappeared in mysterious circumstances on Sunday from a villa near Aubagne, in the Marseilles area, appear to have all been victims of a political mass murder, according to police sources.

The crime was carried out by a group of five in a particularly gruesome manner, with knives and iron bars. M. Massie had his throat cut and another person was strangled.

A man detained for questioning is reported to have confessed to his part in it, and given the police details of how it happened. He was identified as a teacher, born in Buenos Aires and resident in Marseilles.

The crime seems to be a settlement of old scores between rival members of the notorious Service d'Action Civique (SAC), a strong-arm group set up in 1955 to support the action of General de Gaulle.

Its mission was to thwart the activities of both the Algerian National Front and the Secret Army Organisation, OAS. In the early 1960s it was a force some 12,000 strong, well armed, and ready to carry out any tough job that was required.

In 1969 President Pompidou ordered a thorough purge of the SAC, and 6,000 of its members were expelled. But its unsavoury

JAILHOUSE ROCK

From Our Own Correspondent, Rome, July 21

Dr Asolfo di Amato, an Orvieto judge, has told the police to arrest people who wear earphones while they are driving. He prescribes a month's imprisonment and a fine of between 15,000 and 50,000 lire (€320 to €1,220) for the offence.

He claims that the popular habit of listening to taped music through earphones deflects concentration and gives a false sense of security to the driver.

FOUND ALIVE

Oelo.—Two West Germans who parachuted from the 5,600ft Mount Trollyegen were found alive—one clinging to a ledge, the other in a crevasse. They had minor injuries.

Warning to Peronists

From Andrew McLeod, Buenos Aires, July 21

The Argentine Government said last night that it would not tolerate a general strike called by the General Confederation of Labour (CGT) for tomorrow.

In a statement, the Interior Ministry said the strike would violate the National Security Law and strike investigators could face prison sentences of between three and 10 years.

The strike was called by the Peronist-dominated CGT to protest at low wages and soaring unemployment. It takes place in the first major show of strength by trade unions since the armed forces toppled the government of President Maria Estela Peron in March, 1976. But today, leaders of various transport unions say they would not back the strike.

The Government said it would take all necessary measures to "ensure domestic peace, guarantee the freedom to work and provide security for transport systems."

CORRECTION

The caption on yesterday's Lurie cartoon, depicting President Reagan and Mr Menachem Begin, was inadvertently left out of the first edition. It read: "Mind signing the release for my new planes?"

Mass suicide cult member on trial

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, July 21

A former disciple of Jim Jones, the People's Temple cult leader, today goes on trial in San Francisco charged with conspiring to murder Mr Leo Ryan, a United States congressman, and Mr Richard Dwyer, an American diplomat, in an airfield ambush in Guyana in November, 1978.

Larry Layton, a 35-year-old college graduate, is the only survivor of the suicide massacre of 912 cult members to stand trial. Mr Jones shot himself after ordering hundreds of his followers to drink a poisoned soft drink.

Jury selection is expected to take up to two weeks. Hearings of witnesses are not due to begin until August 17.

One of Mr Layton's lawyers, Mr Anthony Tamburello, claims that the United States Government is making a scapegoat of his client. He says that Mr Layton is a victim of a Department of Justice negligence. He says that a full year before the mass suicides took place, the State Department knew that something like that might happen but did nothing to prevent it.

Mr Layton was acquitted by a Guyana court 14 months ago, of attempting to murder two defecting cult members.

Judge Robert Peckham has overruled defence objections that Mr Layton cannot be tried twice in connection with the same incident. The judge said that Guyanese law was separate from United States law and that Mr Layton was being tried under a special United States statute.

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The crisis in the Middle East

Diary of 11 violent days on the border

By Our Foreign Staff

Tension across the Israel-Lebanon border is endemic. The present crisis is the latest in a long series of military exchanges and other incidents, going back to 1970-71 when the Palestinian forces established themselves in southern Lebanon after being driven out of Jordan.

While it is practically impossible to identify a single cause for the trouble, there is a pattern to the current series of armed clashes which appears to have started shortly after the Israeli general election.

Tension was already high after the clash over the Syrian Sam 6 missiles and the Israeli bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

July 7: A pilotless aircraft crashed in Lebanese territory. Israeli sources said it was on a routine reconnaissance flight and a mechanical failure caused the crash. There was also a minor artillery skirmish between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Christian militia in southern Lebanon.

July 10: The first serious incident—four strikes by the Israeli Air Force in the vicinity of Nabatiyeh during the day and that night six Israeli civilians were wounded when several Katyusha rockets fired from the Palestinian bases in southern Lebanon hit the town of Kiryat Shimon.

The Israeli air attacks were the eleventh of this kind this year and the rocket attacks were assumed to have been carried out in retaliation.

July 11: An Israeli raid was launched on Palestinian targets in two coastal villages.

July 12: The Israelis and Christian militia started to bombard targets north of the Litani River including Beaufort Castle. The Palestinians returned the fire.

July 14: Israeli forces attacked three targets in the Nabatiyeh area for an hour and shot down a Syrian aircraft which attempted to intervene.

During that night Israeli aircraft flew over southern Lebanon dropping flares. This was followed by the shelling of Beaufort Castle. The Palestinians returned the fire.

July 15: About 1,000 rounds of artillery, mortar and tank fire were exchanged between the Palestinians and the Lebanese National Movement on one side, and the Israeli forces and the Christian militia on the other.

Dozens of Katyusha rockets were fired into western and upper Galilee. At Nahariya three civilians were killed and 26 injured.

July 16: Israeli jets bombed targets in the Kawakaba Hasbaya area, attacking five villages. The Israeli chief of staff said the aim was "to prevent or interfere with the ability of the terrorists to transport forces or change their deployment."

July 17: Hostilities increased. In the morning the Palestinians fired Katyusha rockets into Galilee. In the afternoon the Israelis bombed the command centres of the Fatah organisation and the Democratic Front in the centre of Beirut. More than 300 were reported killed and 300 wounded.

The Israelis also bombed and shelled Beaufort Castle and attacked Tyre from the sea and destroyed Kasmeeh Bridge, over the Litani River.

There was also a heavy exchange of rockets, artillery and mortar fire in Galilee and southern Lebanon.

July 18: Katyusha rockets hit Galilee during the night. In the morning the Israelis fired 80 rounds at Palestinian targets. The Palestinians hit Nahariya and its beach with 12 rounds, wounding six civilians.

July 19: Israeli jets attacked Beaufort Castle and the Nabatiyeh and Tyre areas. The Palestinians launched new rocket attacks.

According to the Israelis, rockets were also launched from Syrian territory. Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, rejected President Reagan's call for a ceasefire.

July 20: From late morning until far into the night, rocket and artillery fire was exchanged on Israel's northern border.

Seven Israeli soldiers were wounded and an officer was killed during a night raid on Palestinian positions in the Zaharani estuary. Several Palestinians were reported killed.

MOSCOW HITS AT AMERICA

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, July 21

The Russians today accused the United States of supporting and encouraging what Tass called barbarous and piratical Israeli attacks on Lebanese towns and Palestinian refugee camps.

An official government statement said Israel was defying world opinion, ignoring international law and was being supplied with a continuous stream of deadly weapons by the United States.

Tass said America was trying to shield Israel and it also accused the Egyptian leadership of being a partner in an anti-Arab collusion and furthering Israel's aggressive aims.

Tass also accused the western leaders, meeting at Ottawa, of ignoring Israel's "terrorist air raids" on housing areas of Beirut and the killing of civilians.

The agency said the seven western countries were reviving the cold war, and following Washington's "adventurous anti-soviet strategy."



A child is carried from the rubble of Friday's Israeli air raid on Beirut.

Begin vulnerable in flow of dollar aid

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, July 21

During 1981, the United States Government will supply Israel with loans and grants up to a total of \$2.185m (\$1,100m). On top of that are contributions from private sources that are estimated to provide about half as much again.

For the past few years the American taxpayer has provided each Israeli with between \$400 and \$600 annually to finance Israel's military and development programmes.

If the Government aid were to be cut off, reduced, or the private contributions frozen as a result of sanctions imposed by the United Nations as retribution for Israel's continued attacks on Lebanon, the damage to the Israeli economy would be severe.

As yet there is no sign of that happening. The pro-Israel lobby in the United States is strong, and support for Israel in both the Administration and

the legislature remains, but the continued aggression in Lebanon is beginning to raise doubts. Israel's image as the brave, battling small guy taking on the big battalions is being eaten away daily, and not all American Jews are happy with the raids on Lebanon.

The position favouring Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, was put by Mr David Geller, director of special projects in the Foreign Affairs Department of the American Jewish Committee, one of the oldest established Jewish organisations in the United States.

"The Israelis are just not in a position to allow the Palestinian Liberation Organisation to operate from Lebanon. Everyone wants peace, but Israel cannot allow PLO rockets to come into northern villages and there be no response."

Continued shelling of Lebanon has, however, caused more doubts over American support for Israel than anything

before. The Administration's decision to delay indefinitely delivery of F16 fighters is a very significant one for President Reagan to make, and indicates as clearly as anything could the growing frustration with the way Israel has ignored America's need to remain on good terms with Arab states and promote peace in the area.

The question now is whether Congressmen will seek to alter the aid being planned for Israel for next year.

Aid planned for 1982 is exactly the same as is going this year. With aid to Egypt of almost the same size it amounts to two-thirds of Washington's total foreign aid budget.

Of the total aid to Israel, \$2,400m is under the heading "Foreign military sales". Israel gets \$500m of this as a grant, the only nation to do so. The rest is at interest rates reflecting the cost of money to the United States Government, but

which are cheaper than commercial terms.

On top of that is \$785m of economic support, which in 1981 and 1982 is also planned as a grant, as a similar amount is to Egypt.

If Congress wanted to it could attach conditions to this aid, or even reduce it. With the military support there might be more problems as Israel receives at least \$1,000m a year in loans under specially written legislation.

There is an unwillingness to take any such action yet, but the fear of the political damage that would be done to a Congressman or Senator by cutting funds to Israel is receding as sympathy declines.

If their postbag begin to build up with anti-Israel sentiment, if the PLO keeps away from obvious atrocities, the feeling will continue to change. At the moment nobody wants to be the first to cut Israel's wings, but it is still possible.

Few tears shed for civilians by Israelis

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, July 21

As the Israeli Cabinet met in emergency session this morning a small throng of left-wing demonstrators gathered outside, carrying posters and shouting slogans calling for an immediate halt to the bombing of Palestinian targets in Lebanon.

The poor attendance at the demonstration was a reflection of the lack of division among the great majority of the public about the morality of the latest decision to use Israeli jets against concentrated areas of Arab population.

Israelis from all levels of society remain convinced that civilians are being used as a deliberate screen by the Palestinian guerrillas.

Yesterday in the border town of Kiryat Shimon, a resident angrily voiced an opinion often heard in all parts of the country. "The Palestinians are the people causing the trouble. If the Lebanese are prepared to risk living near their murder bases, that is their business, but it cannot affect our tactics."

Apart from a handful of left-wing deputies who described the Beirut raid as military adventurism one of the few outspoken public reactions came in a telegram to Mr Begin from kibbutz Harar-Ashdod which concluded: "We will not be reconciled to a policy of shelling civilian populations as a *modus operandi* in the war against terrorists."

The criticism was flatly rejected by Mr Begin, who claimed that under previous Labour administrations, cities and villages had been shelled directly by Israel and civilian populations had been attacked in response to terrorist actions. He distinguished this from his policy of attacking terrorist bases irrespective of their position in relation to civilian areas.

EEC farm ministers ban two hormones

From Peter Norman, Brussels, July 21

EEC agriculture ministers today banned the use of two synthetic hormones in rearing animals for human consumption. But they agreed here to allow the continued use of five other substances—subject to a scientific investigation and that the Commission would produce a report within nine months.

The decision was received coolly by consumer representatives who have been campaigning for a total ban on the use of hormones in fattening animals.

Mr Tony Venables, the director of the Brussels-based Bureau of European Consumer Organizations said: "It looks as if they are hiding behind the scientific committee before taking a clear decision."

The banned substances are stilbenes and thyrostanes, which are suspected of causing cancer. Most EEC states have already prohibited their use.

It was the discovery of stilbenes in baby food in Italy last autumn which precipitated

the hormone scare and provoked consumer groups, backed by the French and Italian governments, to call for a total ban.

Today, largely because of resistance from Britain and Ireland to a total hormone ban, the agriculture ministers agreed that three natural hormones—oestradiol, progesterone and testosterone—could continue to be used, as could two synthetic substances—trenbolone and zeranol.

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, a Minister of State for Agriculture, said Britain had opposed a total ban because "nobody has proven that all substances are harmful". Financial considerations have played a part in determining the British approach. According to agriculture officials banning all hormones in fattening would cost the British food industry an estimated £20m a year.

The British stand has been reinforced by the American and Australian food industries, which both use hormones

Solidarity strike averted

From Dossa Trevisan and Denis Taylor, Warsaw, July 21

Warsaw, July 21—Leaders of the Solidarity union workers at the Polish national airline LOT have agreed to suspend a strike threatened for Friday, a union spokesman said.

The decision came after negotiations all day with the Government, seeking to halt the threatened LOT strike and a dockers' protest as the Communist Party urged all Poles to help save their homeland.

The Solidarity spokesman at the airline said that the union suspended its strike threat after receiving a letter from General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, which it viewed as a sign that negotiations would continue.

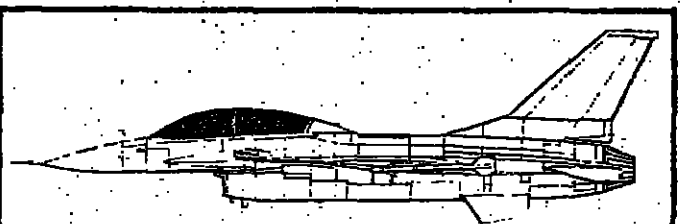
He added that Solidarity at LOT had not won its main demand—which was that the Government agreed to having a director chosen by the workers at an election in June. This, he said, would be the subject of further talks.—AP.

charter guaranteeing longer leave and pay increases after 15 years of work, and after every subsequent five years. The Government says the demand is unrealistic (Our correspondent reports).

Steelworkers, miners and shipyard workers have already won similar charters, and the dockers claim that they only want equality with other heavy industry workers.

General Jaruzelski told the extraordinary congress of the Polish Communist Party which ended here yesterday that pressing for new wage increases through strikes would get Poland nowhere.

With the congress over, all the questions of this past turbulent year are still open and the dockers remain a latent threat. Mr Stanislaw Kania, the party leader, heartened by his rousing vote of confidence, said at the close of the congress that the time had come for action.



The F16B, from "Jane's All the World's Aircraft".

American pressure

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

Withholding F16 deliveries to the Israeli Air Force represents psychological pressure on Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, rather than the kind of military constraint which could seriously jeopardize his country's security.

But this is not to belittle the F16's reputation as the most cost-effective fighter in the West. Its combination of simplicity and sophistication have earned it the sobriquet of "the modern Spitfire" from more than one commentator.

The F16, sometimes dubbed the best fighter in the world, is by contrast all sophistication—with a price tag to match. But the histories of both aircraft are intertwined apart from their dual involvement in the Middle East.

The United States Air Force decided to procure the F16 in 1974, because it wanted a quantity as well as quality to keep pace with the growing Soviet squadrons. The F15 air superiority aircraft was so expensive that to have bought the required number would have exceeded the Air Force budget. So it ordered a mix of F15s and a new light combat fighter, the F16, instead.

Since then its most famous sale was to the four Nato countries, Norway, Denmark, Belgium and Holland, who decided on a joint purchase to replace their aging Starfighters. Pakistan is also expected to take delivery of a consignment before the end of this year.

Along with the F15, the United States Air Force is using the F16 to replace the F4 Phantom squadrons. It has only half the weight of the Phantom, but has twice the combat radius, and a turning circle which is half as good again.

Like the Phantom it can also be used as a ground attack aircraft, and can carry a comparable weapons load twice as far. Again like the Phantom, it is dual-capable, meaning that it can deliver nuclear as well as conventional munitions, but can also promise far greater accuracy than the aircraft it is replacing.

With a speed of more than twice that of sound, a multi-barrel 20mm cannon, air-to-air missiles on the wings and either extra fuel tanks or more missiles underneath, the F16 has

obvious attractions for an air force like Israel's, with its high spending on defence.

The F15 has a maximum speed of about two and a half times that of sound. Its four Sparrow and four Sidewinder air-to-air missiles are backed up by a rotating cannon in the fuselage.

□ Ottawa: There is no crisis in American-Israeli relations arising from Monday night's decision by President Reagan to continue withholding the delivery of a batch of F16 aircraft to Israel, a senior Administration official said today (Nicholas Ashford writes).

The decision on the aircraft was taken shortly after the eight Western leaders meeting in Ottawa had issued a joint statement calling for an end to the violence in the Middle East and it appeared to be part of a coordinated effort to discourage the Israelis from carrying out further raids into southern Lebanon.

However, the Americans have been anxious to avoid the impression that they are trying to twist the arm of Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Mr Edwin Meese, counsel to President Reagan, said yesterday morning that there was no link between the decision to hold back deliveries of the F16s and American attempts to negotiate a ceasefire in southern Lebanon.

Asked what Israel would have to do in order to obtain the aircraft he said: "It's not a matter of Israel doing something, although in a quite separate action, of course, we're hoping there will be a ceasefire in the whole area. But it's more a matter that this would be just the wrong time to send in the F16s."

Despite official disclaimers, there is no doubt that the President and his advisers are extremely vexed with Mr Begin over Israel's actions during the past few days.

Western leaders were satisfied that they had been able to produce a joint statement on the Middle East, although the French complained that the statement should have been stronger in its condemnation of Israel.

In a joint statement on political issues they gave a warning that the Soviet Union must not be allowed to achieve strategic or military superiority over the West.

Lebanon's Supreme Defence Council today met to discuss the Israeli attacks. Defence ministers of the Arab League are to meet in Tunis on Thursday.

More than 60 Conservative and Labour MPs yesterday tabled a Commons motion condemning the "savage Israeli air attack on Beirut".

The 30-minute raid came after the artillery and rocket



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Blasts cut power supplies in S Africa

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, July 21

Limpet mines, believed to have been planted by 'black nationalist guerrillas', damaged two power stations in the eastern Transvaal and an electrical transformer near Pretoria early today. Nobody was injured but there was considerable damage.

The police said it would be speculation to assert that the explosions were connected but it appeared a well coordinated series of attacks bearing the hallmarks of the outlawed African National Congress. The explosions occurred within minutes of each other between 1.40 am and 2 am.

South African newspapers were warned today that power stations fall under the National Key Points Act and that no details of security measures in force could be published.

The first explosions at the Arnot power station, south-east of Witbank, destroyed the transformer. Ten minutes later two explosions destroyed two transformers and five generator couplings at the Camden power station and the town of Ermelo, 11 miles to the north-west was without electricity for four hours.

Near Pretoria, a mine explosion damaged a partly-built electrical transformer.

A spokesman for the Electric Power Supply Commission, Eskom, refused to disclose how serious the damage was but said it did not appear that there would be any lasting effect on the power grid.

The mines used are thought to be similar to one found at an oil storage depot at Alberton, outside Johannesburg, on July 3. It was discovered in a driveway used by hundreds of petrol tankers.

In April, limpet mines wrecked an electricity substation near Durban, and there have been three mine explosions on railway lines in the Natal since then.

Shortly before South Africa's Republic Festival at the end of May, which the ANC swore to disrupt, powerful explosions badly damaged an army recruiting office in Durban and the city's war memorial. In what was considered a violent publicity stunt by the ANC to show its rejection of the celebrations.

Eskom has warned consumers that its power "bank" is a dangerous 12 per cent below the internationally accepted margin between demand and supply.

There have been serious power cuts this winter and Eskom has issued a warning that next winter the situation could be worse. This is partly because new orders for power stations were not placed in the mid-1970s when South Africa was undergoing an economic recession, and three power stations now being built will not come into commission before 1986.

The situation is being complicated by the unreliability of supplies from Mozambique. A hydro-electric station in Mozambique because of guerrilla action by the anti-Frelimo Mozambique Resistance Movement.



Over the grey Danube: Improvised catwalks helped people to move around in Passau, West Germany, yesterday after the swollen river flooded the town. Four people died in the Bavarian floods including a British army officer. The authorities gave his name as Lieutenant A. Grant Carter, aged 21, from Glasgow.

CHANGE OF HEART BY HUNGARIAN

From Mario Mediano
Athens, July 21

Mr Kalman Szabo, a Hungarian academic who was granted political asylum in Greece after jumping from a second-floor balcony of the Hungarian embassy here, was flown to Budapest in a stretcher today after a Greek Foreign Ministry statement saying that he had changed his mind.

The episode embarrassed both governments. Mr Szabo, of the Greek literature department at Budapest University, was to have served as interpreter for Mr Gyorgy Lazar, the Hungarian Prime Minister, during his official visit to Athens last week.

Mr Szabo suffered multiple fractures and an internal haemorrhage from his fall. He told the police he had jumped after hearing embassy employees suggesting his forcible repatriation or worse. The Hungarian embassy denied this, claiming his fall was due to dizziness. Asylum was granted within 24 hours.

When Mr Szabo's wife, who is of Greek origin, arrived from Budapest she claimed her husband had been half unconscious when his signature was obtained on a petition for asylum. Yesterday, in the hospital's intensive care unit, Mr Szabo signed a formal declaration of voluntary repatriation.

China may approach UN for help over flood aid

From David Bonavia, Hongkong, July 21

China is expected to ask the United Nations to help channel emergency relief aid from all countries willing to contribute after the floods, as was done at the time of last year's severe droughts in central and northern China.

The destruction of grain harvests over large areas of Sichuan will certainly mean food shortages for many of the province's 100 million people. Soldiers and civilians there are gradually restoring order after the havoc wrought there by the past few days' flooding of the Yangtze river.

No official casualty figure has been released as final but deaths from the floods are likely to run into the thousands, with perhaps hundreds of thousands of people temporarily homeless.

Fortunately the Yangtze acts as a natural channel of communication between Sichuan and the big ports of the east coast, especially Shanghai, where grain could be unloaded and sent upstream. Normally China's grain imports are consumed in the big coastal cities.

The biggest source of relief among Chinese officials in the stricken area is the proven staunchness of the new Geshouba dam, upstream from the big city of Wuhan and the farmlands of Hubei province.

With flood water at one time moving through at only 5,000 cubic metres a second, less than the dam's projected capacity of 90,000 cubic metres a second, (representing the worst inundation since 1906), the designers and engineers passed an anxious time but the dam held.

The damage to crops in Sichuan, combined with continued problems of drought in northern China, could inflate the country's grain imports to nearly 15 million tons in the 1981-82 crop year, mostly from the United States. Damage to the province's developed industrial sector will not be accurately assessed for some time.

Floods are also expected this year in the Yellow River and the north, and could cause damage to crops there, though the main problem in that part of China is still drought.

Peking: A flood control official said today that the floods killed between 700 and 800 people—far fewer than the earlier estimate of 4,000 (Reuters reports).

He reported by telephone from Sichuan that many of those originally feared drowned had managed to fight their way to high ground. The health situation was now generally good after medical teams had reached most of the affected areas, he said.

CONCESSION WON BY DAUGHTER

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

The Soviet Union has allowed the daughter of one of their important scientists to return to Moscow from Israel for the funeral of her mother.

"It is the first time the Russians gave someone permission to return in this way. It was arranged very quickly, probably at the top level. I did not know why they still do it," Mrs Sonia Levin told *The Times* in London yesterday.

Mr Levin is the daughter of Professor Alexander Lerner, an authority on cybernetics. The Lerner family has been waiting for exit visas to join her in Israel since 1971.

Perhaps the Russians wanted to show their fatherly respect, as an important scientist. Or perhaps they did not want to face the international protest in refusing him permission to attend his mother's funeral.

Mrs Levin, who spent a week in Moscow, found her father and brother living in difficult circumstances. "They are two lonely men, alone," she said. "Although my father is a scientist, he has to sit and do nothing. He is fond of drawing pictures. In the winter he conducts a seminar for other dismissed scientists."

"The only thing that keeps them going is the thought that they may get their emigration visas tomorrow."

Cost of libel insurance could close newspapers

From Our Correspondent
Colombo, July 21

A Cabinet plan to compel newspapers to insure against defamation claims could jeopardize the freedom of expression and independent journalism in Sri Lanka, according to protests lodged with President J. R. Jayewardene.

The most dangerous feature of the proposed legislation, according to the Movement for the Defence of Democratic Rights, is that the Cabinet itself is to determine how much insurance, cash deposit or guarantee bond each newspaper must furnish. This provision was confirmed by a Cabinet spokesman at a press briefing.

The Government already controls the newspapers of two of the three large newspaper groups which publish daily newspapers in Sinhalese, English and Tamil. Radio and television are Government monopolies. In addition to the Government Film Unit, the Government also regulates the cinema industry through the Film Corporation and the Public Performances Board which censors films and plays.

While the colourless Government-owned newspapers will have no difficulty in insuring with the two state insurance corporations (which also enjoy a monopoly of the investigative and lively opposition and independent newspapers, many of which operate on shoestring budgets, may be forced out of existence.

They receive little or no advertising from the Government and big business and as their revenue depends on sales they could be crippled if called to pay very high premiums. In effect, the ruling United National Party will determine whether other political parties or independent groups should pay by way of insurance.

Another group, the Civil Rights Movement, says in its protest letter to the President that for the Government to treat every newspaper as a potential lethal object like a motor car which must be insured against third-party risks is a strange idea which is not, as far as CRM is aware, known elsewhere.

The reason given for the proposed legislation is that it enables persons who are defamed to collect damages awarded by the courts if the newspaper organizations concerned lack the financial resources to pay such damages.

Such cases have been rare in the past and the Movement for the Defence of Democratic Rights has told President Jayewardene that what will be in question "will be the quantum of a hypothetical award which may be made by a court in respect of a hypothetical defamatory publication, and therefore there will be no definite basis for the assessment."

Provision already exists in the Press Council Law for individuals or institutions with grievances to appeal to the Press Council to order any publications concerned to publish clarifications, retractions or apologies. This procedure has been used frequently.

End in sight of wind of change Troubled nation with no material worries

Patrick Knight, in the second of two articles on Argentina, reports from Buenos Aires on the pressures bedeviling the Government. The first article, on the country's economic uncertainty, appeared yesterday.

Argentina's deep economic crisis, which has caused the peso to fall in value by 75 per cent this year, and resulted in industrial output being cut back by 40 per cent, is symptomatic of a deeper political crisis.

The incoming ministerial team has so far shown no sign of being able to overcome it or even agree what to do. Industrialists are pressing the Government to let them out by lending \$8,000m on the softest possible terms, and also to raise tariffs on imports again.

This policy would increase inflation, already expected to reach 150 per cent this year, compared with 87 per cent last year, and effectively destroy all that the previous Finance Minister, Señor José Martínez de Hoz, achieved.

Unions offering to collaborate

Both the labour unions and the politicians, in theory banned from activity at the moment, are gaining courage from the lack of authority and are beginning to put pressure on the Government to accommodate them once again.

The still potentially powerful unions can argue that 400,000 people have been put out of work in the past six months, 10 per cent of the workforce, are also quietly offering to collaborate with the Government, in exchange for a better deal for the men they represent, and a return to protectionism.

Just as a reminder, there have been a few short stoppages in recent weeks, with the threat of an illegal general strike towards the end of the month.

Even the turbulent generals have been shaken by the economic typhoon which has swept the country, partly as a result of their reluctance to back President Viola, and they are now loudly pleading allegiance.

The problem is that there are few forces in Argentina continuing to make sacrifices in exchange for maintaining the limited advantages of Señor Martínez de Hoz's enforced opening to competition.

The benefits have included a breath of fresh air on an almost frozen society, and a sudden awareness that there is another world outside something which until recently most of xenophobic and backward looking Argentina hardly allowed itself to admit.

But the cost has been very high; and the cost of persisting with it would certainly be higher still. Powerful voices are being raised which imply Argentina returning to the economic and subsequently political isolationism from which it has so

recently emerged. It is hard for the outsider to appreciate the extent to which Argentina remains cut off from major world currents.

The geographical situation explains a great deal. Momentous events in the Middle East or Europe hardly find an echo here, and certainly make no impact on the Argentine.

Self-sufficiency in oil, a big food exporter, and with a small population, Argentina does not have to worry, materially speaking, about what happens in the rest of the world, and more often than not does not do so.

There are strong voices pressing once again for most of the economic ties with the rest of the world to be cut, and even for a return to a military-led populism, on the semi-fascist model, which implies the emergence of another figure similar to General Juan Perón.

The military regional and other commanders have illustrated that the writ of the central Government does not always run in their provinces. This analysis also implies the repetition in a few years time of the guerrilla rebellion, probably emerging from the same quarter, and involving the same spring of the materially pampered but intellectually starved middle class.

The progressive militarization of the country, which has experienced only brief intervals of civilian rule during the last 50 years, has resulted in a very deep cynicism by the young, and their total lack of commitment to, or participation in, political or public affairs.

Most of the Montoneros and the ERP guerrillas, who caused such havoc in the mid-Seventies, came from privileged middle class families.

There seem to be few voices aware of the dangers of a regression, or at least with sufficient power to do anything about it.

Fatal decisions on the cards

Many Argentines, egged on by the soldiers, whose influence and dominance of public life seems to be almost total, seem to wish for no more than to go to war with Chile over the Beagle Channel dispute; an issue hard for anybody outside the claustrophobic Argentine atmosphere to comprehend, let alone grasp, but which captures headlines in Buenos Aires.

Another vital issue is the fate of the Falkland Islands, whose inhabitants confound Argentines by not wishing to be incorporated into Argentina.

The state of affairs in this land of material plenty seems to illustrate that there is a point where an overabundance of resources can almost totally destroy moral strengths. Argentina seems to be once again at the point of opting for an easy, but in the long term probably fatal way out of its present political and economic impasse, by turning to the heroes and ideals of the past, which have been discredited, and to the raw material, which in this rarified atmosphere, still seem to strike a chord.

Law Report Court of Appeal

Probation reports that cause harm through justices' sentences

Regina v James
Before Lord Justice Lawton, Mr Justice Thompson and Mrs Justice Heilbron
[Judgment delivered July 21]

Sensible recommendations made by probation officers were welcomed by the courts. If they were not sensible, they might do more harm than good by causing magistrates to pass sentences which the public found difficult to understand.

The Court of Appeal refused an application by Michael James for leave to appeal against a sentence of five years' imprisonment imposed on him on March 23, 1981 at Middlesex Crown Court (Judge Solomon) on his conviction of wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm contrary to section 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act, 1861.

On May 12, 1979 the applicant, then aged 18, had armed himself with a broken milk bottle, rushed into the victim's electrical goods shop and had cut the victim badly close to the eyes.

Mr R. M. Jaffa for the applicant said that the offence was as bad a case of "glassing" as it was possible to imagine, and a severe sentence was the only way to show that the society would not tolerate such behaviour.

Their Lordships wished to call attention to two social inquiry reports prepared by a senior probation officer. One was put before the Crown Court. Despite the fact that the applicant had been found guilty of a terrible crime, the report ended with the suggestion that he should be put on probation for a short period. It had astonished the trial judge that such a recommendation should have been made, and he suggested that his comments should be brought to the attention of the probation officer. Whether or not they were, a further report was prepared by the same probation officer for the Court of Appeal, in which the same recommendation was repeated.

If the probation officer had bothered to look at the photographs which would have known what terrible damage the applicant had done, but still the thought a probation order was the proper order to make.

Many years ago the Streetfield committee had suggested that probation officers should make recommendations for the court. Before that time it had been regarded as unseemly, but since then the courts had welcomed recommendations, provided they were sensible.

If they were not they tended to do more harm than good. Recommendations that were not sensible carried no weight whatever with experienced judges, but the danger was that they might carry weight with magistrates.

That might explain very often how it came about that sentences were passed in magistrates' courts which were difficult for the public to understand. The Probation Department of the Home Office should have its attention brought to these comments.

Solicitor: Marcus-Barrett.

Leave to stay revoked after taking corrupt advantage

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department ex parte Hassan and Others
Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Shaw and Lord Justice Griffiths
[Judgment delivered July 20]

A man who knows that his permission to stay in this country has been unlawfully obtained and has taken advantage of that permission is not entitled to be treated otherwise than as being in breach of immigration laws.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the applicants, Mr Shabeh-ul-Hassan, of Westworth Road, Golders Green, London, and his wife, and two children, against the refusal of the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Donaldson and Mr Justice Forbes) on November 14, 1980, to grant an order of judicial review to quash the Immigration Officer's order of May 15, 1980, for their detention and removal from the United Kingdom.

He had a brother who told him that he could obtain extensions for him; and did so. It was conceded that Maqsood had no knowledge of or complicity in any fraud and was entirely innocent.

Lord Justice Donaldson said that "the starting point must be that the Kinneir leave and the subsequent leaves were wholly lawful; and that Maqsood's last validly obtained leave expired in 1976."

The Divisional Court had gone on to say that the Secretary of State in considering Maqsood's claim should take into account the fact that Maqsood was quite innocent.

The Divisional Court also dealt with the case of the Hassan family. Mr Hassan had come here in 1974 to take up a very responsible position as a bank manager. His wife and children also came here and his mother came as a visitor.

In 1976 there was a question of the mother getting an extension. A friend came to the bank and told Mr Hassan that he was in close touch with Croxson and could get any leave. Subsequently, indefinite leave was given to the family through Mr Kinneir, and Mr Hassan on occasions left and returned to the United Kingdom.

In December 1976, a few days after an immigration officer had pointed out a difference in date upon his passport, Mr Hassan lost that passport. He got another Pakistani passport and had it

stamped with indefinite leave to enter by Mr Kinneir.

In April 1978 questions were raised as to Mr Kinneir's position. The police interviewed Mr Hassan who made a statement which he said had been obtained by duress or undue influence.

In the statement Mr Hassan said that his friend had told him he had cost a lot of money to do the passport, "£500 each and maybe more" and that being "in an embarrassed position" he had paid the friend £1,000 out of his own pocket.

The police had dropped any charge against Mr Hassan and Mr Kinneir had been sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

Overstayer
On November 13, 1979, the Home Office refused Mr Hassan leave to enter the United Kingdom under the Immigration Act, 1971, saying that "endorsements granting indefinite leave to enter were obtained by fraud and were therefore void."

The Home Office was ready to treat Mr Hassan as an overstayer so that he had an appeal to an immigration officer, but he said that he was not an illegal entrant and was really in the same position as Maqsood against whom there was no allegation of knowledge of corruption.

It was said against Mr Hassan that he was "in the know"; if not at first, that later he knew that leave to enter had been obtained by fraud and was aware of it.

There had been no want of natural justice. The Divisional Court had been right. The appeal should be dismissed.

Lord Justice Shaw agreed.

LORD JUSTICE GRIFFITHS, also agreeing, said that the point in the appeal was whether a man who had obtained his leave to enter by fraud and thereafter took advantage of it was entitled to be treated otherwise than here in this country in contravention of our immigration laws.

Solicitors: Maurice Nadeem & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

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Solicitors: Maurice Nadeem & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

No bar on honest notice of default

State Trading Corporation of India Ltd v E. D. & F. Man (Sugar) Ltd
Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Shaw and Lord Justice Griffiths
[Judgment delivered July 17]

A seller on whose behalf a bank gave a performance bond in a contract of sale of sugar, was not prevented by the bond from giving notice of default on the part of the seller, since the buyer was not believed that there had been default.

The Court of Appeal, dismissing an interlocutory appeal by State Trading Corporation of India Ltd from an order of Mr Justice Staughton discharging an injunction obtained by them in their action against E. D. & F. Man (Sugar) Ltd (ED&F), held that there was no implied term in the sale contract that the buyers, ED&F, would not give notice of default without reasonable and just cause.

Mr Anthony Colman, QC and Mr Michael Collins for the corporation, Mr David Johnson, QC, and Mr Christopher C. Russell for ED&F.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that performance bonds were part of the essential machinery of international trade. The bond in question arose out of a sale of sugar, and was a contract of sale of sugar.

As part of a deal between them, the corporation in July, 1980, sold to ED&F 200,000 metric tons of sugar for delivery between January and June, 1981, with a maximum in each month of 60,000 metric tons.

It was provided by the contract that the sellers would "establish performance bond of 5 per cent through [a bank] in favour of buyers for maximum quantity under the contract immediately."

Force majeure
In accordance with the corporation's instructions, the State Bank of India, by a letter of guarantee dated June 25, 1980, gave a performance bond to ED&F in proportion to the quantity in default. Should the seller fail for whatever reasons to carry out... its obligations... it shall make payment immediately upon ED&F giving notice of the default on the part of the seller.

By a force majeure clause, incorporating rule of contract, the corporation agreed to pay to ED&F the sum of £1,000,000 in the event of a default by the corporation.

Lord Justice Shaw concurred and Lord Justice Griffiths agreed.

Solicitors: Stocken & Lambert; Simmons & Simmons.

Association of London, it was provided: "Should the delivery in fact be made but none since the delivery time specified be prevented or delayed directly or indirectly by government intervention... or any cause of force majeure, the seller shall immediately advise the buyer... and the period of delivery shall be extended by 30 days..."

The contract was not fully performed owing to a ban put on export of sugar from India by the Indian Government on February 21, 1981.

Some deliveries of the sugar had been made but none since the ban.

Performance bond
Before ED&F could give a notice of default, the corporation issued a performance bond to prevent them from giving it. On an ex parte application by the corporation, Mr Justice Staughton granted an injunction which was discharged by Mr Justice Staughton, hearing the matter in private.

The order was suspended to allow for the appeal.

Mr Coleman sought to reimpose the injunction.

The case was different from any that had come before the courts previously. The other cases involved the notice of default or the demand for payment had already been made, and it was held that the performance bond was effective, so that the bank had to pay, despite the force majeure clause.

In the present case, it was sought to prevent the buyer from giving the notice.

Mr Coleman said that the sellers had a complete answer to the alleged default—force majeure. Therefore he contended that the notice should not be given.

He said that a term must be implied in the contract of sale that ED&F would not serve the notice unless they had reasonable and just cause.

His Lordship saw no justification for introducing such an implied term. It would strike at the efficacy and the purpose of performance bonds. It would prevent the bank from paying whenever there was a dispute between seller and buyer.

The only term to be implied into the sale contract was that the buyer honestly believed that there was a default by the seller, and that he believed, then the giving of the notice would amount to fraud. If he had the belief, he was entitled to give the notice.

Lord Justice Shaw concurred and Lord Justice Griffiths agreed.

حکومت پاکستان

PARLIAMENT July 21 1981

Unreasonable spending plans must be cut

SCOTLAND

In moving motions to cut Government expenditure, Mr. James Douglas, MSP for Glasgow, said that the Government's proposals for 1982 were "unreasonable" and that the Government must cut its spending plans. He said that the Government's proposals for 1982 were "unreasonable" and that the Government must cut its spending plans.

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and individual letters bring the total to more than 40,000. If economies in spending were not taken, the dismal prospect for 1982 was that many firms would have to move their operations from Scotland. Already 11 companies had taken that decision.

It is a tragedy, he said, that an atmosphere of crisis for help from ratepayers such as these, as well as the danger to the national economy, that he was faced to turn to the powers available to act against excessive and unreasonable spending.

He had been asked by Mr. Millan, the chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, if he was prepared to accept further representations and proposals before implementing the grant reductions for that purpose.

I am happy to assure him (he said) that consistent with the reasonable line which I have adopted throughout, I am prepared to do so and I am glad to make the position again perfectly clear.

I reject the suggestion (he said) that my proposals constitute a threat to local democracy (Labour's principal stance) that the Government of the day had an undeniable interest in local authority expenditure levels and had been established under successive Governments and Mr. Millan when in office also adopted measures to influence spending.

Local authorities remained free to determine their own priorities and ultimately to reach their own decisions, but the Government would not be prepared to subsidise economic irresponsibility.

Mr. Millan should try to avoid being too alarmist about this. Scare stories of half the employees being sacked were absurd and cruel to those concerned.

Most people would find it quite unbelievable that none of the authorities felt able to propose any expenditure reductions at all. He did not believe any organisation that would have serious consequences that no savings could be found. Certainly no private business could work in such a way.

There was no prospect, whatever happened in the current year, of a further reduction in expenditure in the coming year. Why did the Secretary of State pretend it could be done when he knew it was impossible to get a reduction in the current year?

Lothian was faced with the prospect of the money to pay firmers and police running out and the Government being prepared to sit back and let it happen.

Even if the crisis was averted it would have done lasting damage to democracy. The provisions in the Act were symptomatic of the dictatorial approach of the Government and already immense damage had been done to local government.

Mr. Iain Spence (Aberdeen, South, C) said he would have thought the Opposition would have wanted to put as much as possible of a crisis affect the whole of central and local government relationships.

No doubt the reality of the situation was unpalatable and frightening in its implications—the breakdown of essential services in a few months with the Government of the day left to spend on education, social work, the police force, and the health service.

The Government was coming forward, not with proposals to reduce expenditure, but with proposals to increase it. He said that the Government was coming forward, not with proposals to reduce expenditure, but with proposals to increase it.

While the Government had a right to determine its contribution to the economy, the Government had a right to determine its contribution to the economy.

Local government had a far better record in controlling expenditure than had central government. In Scotland or south of the border.



Younger: Petitions received

In many cases jobs were being lost in industry in Scotland not because of an increase in rates, but as a direct result of Government policies.

This was a bad day for Scottish local government. The only consolation was that the Government did not have all that long to run. They would do a great amount of damage when a Labour Government was re-elected it would repair some of that damage.

Mr. Michael Ancram (Edinburgh, South, C) said the discussion should be about finance and economics. It was on the Conservative side, but it was not for the Labour group on Lothian regional council.

From the start they had seen it as a party political argument, a political fight which, like some extra-parliamentary opposition, should be about the damage that they perceived as the failings of their Labour MPs.

In this fight they had been prepared from the start to put the ratepayers and electors of Lothian into the front line to take the flak for the Government's policy.

They were not talking about massive slashing of services, but about trying to get back from the brink of financial disaster and political confrontation which had been the source of all the problems in the Lothian region.

Mr. Ernest Ross (Dumfries, West, Lab) said the number of unemployed in the short period the Government had been in power. The order of the day was to do nothing to help this situation.

Dumfries District Council believed their planned expenditure was neither excessive nor unreasonable.



Millan: Soured relations

Mr. Robin Cook (Edinburgh, Central, Lab) said the independence of local authorities was being undermined, that would remove an independent check on government.

The issue was the right of local authorities to differ with the policy decisions of government and to elect a local authority which represented the views of the community.

Mr. Gordon Wilson (Dumfries, East, Scot Nat) said that the principle at stake was the most important one of the independence of local government. He said that the principle at stake was the most important one of the independence of local government.

Mr. William Walker (Perth and East Perthshire, C) said the Government was trying to reduce expenditure by cutting services and by making it difficult to achieve a balance and reasonable relationship.

It was essential for the local authorities to reduce expenditure. Mr. Hugh Brown (Glasgow, Prov, Lab) said the Government had played into the hands of the people who were demanding a balance and reasonable relationship.

Mr. Gavin Strang (Edinburgh, East, Lab) said that far from Lothian regional council being in the dock, it should be commended for what it had achieved in local government service.

Mr. Donald Dewar, an Opposition spokesman on Scotland (Glasgow, West, Lab) said the Government had a right to be alarmed at the situation because they were seeing a fundamental attack on local government by central government.

When central government had requested local authorities to moderate their expenditure in the national interest, the local authorities had responded. The authorities were dealing with tonight's proposals with a great deal of courage and a great deal of courage.

Orders for Trident material already placed in US

DEFENCE

In its capacity to prevent war and maintain peace, no other form of expenditure could conceivably be as effective as Trident. Mr. John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, said during a Commons question.

Mr. Nott said the Trident project was proceeding according to plan. Orders for long lead material had already been placed in the United States. He said that the Trident project was proceeding according to plan.

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prevent this system from "going bananas". How is he going to finance it? Mr. Nott said the Trident project was proceeding according to plan.

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Mr. Nott: No. The deployment of cruise missiles in my opinion will make this country far less vulnerable (Conservative cheers).

On opinion polls, I have the New Society poll and the Marplan poll. Mr. Nott said the Trident project was proceeding according to plan.

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Opposition censure announced

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, announced at question time that the Opposition was to table a censure motion attacking the Government over the latest unemployment figures.

Mr. William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, deploring the Prime Minister who is attending the Ottawa summit conference, replied that the Government would not be taking any action against Mr. Foot against his intended course, because of his poor show on the last similar occasion.

Mr. Michael Foot asked: Has Mr. Whitelaw had an opportunity to discuss with the Prime Minister the terrible unemployment figures published today?

Can he now explain to us why this country should suffer so much more in this respect than any other country? He said that the Government was coming forward, not with proposals to reduce expenditure, but with proposals to increase it.

power of British industry do not exist, and that the Government of the day had a right to determine its contribution to the economy.

Mr. Foot: Mr. Whitelaw has not studied the figures properly because Mr. Foot is rightly angry.

We were in some respects doing better than some other countries. The Government are doing worse than any other country in the world. The Government are doing worse than any other country in the world.

Mr. Whitelaw: I do not think the level of that question deserves a serious reply. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C): Is it appropriate for Mr. Whitelaw to describe the Prime Minister as a criminal?

Thomas): I thought the House was taking the attitude of Mr. Whitelaw. I thought the House was taking the attitude of Mr. Whitelaw.

Mr. Canavan: I did not refer directly to the Prime Minister. I did not mean the Prime Minister was a criminal. I did not mean the Prime Minister was a criminal.

The Speaker: That, the House will understand, is an apology. (Laughter.)

Mr. David Winnick (Walsall, North, Lab): In view of the shameful unemployment figures, was not the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Peter Walker) right to say in his television broadcast to dissociate himself from Government policies on economic matters?

Why do not other Cabinet ministers who disagree strongly with the Prime Minister's economic policies have the courage to do so? Mr. Whitelaw: The Minister of Agriculture did not dissociate himself from Government policy.

Would he draw the attention of the Prime Minister to the recent report of the Metropolitan Police? Mr. Whitelaw: I am grateful for Mr. Walker's request and support for the Metropolitan Police.

Would he be assured that the overwhelming majority of citizens support the Metropolitan Police? Mr. Whitelaw: I am grateful for Mr. Walker's request and support for the Metropolitan Police.

Would he further agree that the recent assertion of the leader of the Police that the police force is not to be used to enforce the law is not only ill-founded but ill-timed in view of the fact that the police force is not to be used to enforce the law?

Mr. Whitelaw: I am grateful for Mr. Walker's request and support for the Metropolitan Police. Mr. Whitelaw: I am grateful for Mr. Walker's request and support for the Metropolitan Police.

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All work to be completed at Chatham

DOCKYARDS

The phasing of the rundown of Chatham Dockyard had still to be agreed. Mr. Nott said the Trident project was proceeding according to plan.

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BROADCASTING

The BBC spent £54 to send a taxi from London to Newcastle to pick up four spiders for a programme. Mr. Arthur Lewis, (Newham, North-West, Lab) said when speaking against a Bill aimed against the proposed cuts in the corporation's external services.

He said that the overseas service wasted taxpayers' money and some of the programmes contained a gross waste of money at the BBC.

Bill to protect BBC overseas services

Broadcasting Corporation (External Services) Bill under the 10-minute rule procedure.

He said the Bill would establish a royal commission on the BBC's external services. He said that the overseas service wasted taxpayers' money and some of the programmes contained a gross waste of money at the BBC.

GLC leader's remarks resented

London Labour Party leaders were criticized by a Conservative MP at question time for what he described as "a vicious verbal assault" on the Metropolitan Police.

Mr. William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said he deeply resented the remarks by the GLC leader, Kenneth Livingstone, that the police force was "prone to violence" (Conservative cheers).

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth. Debate on the Royal Navy, Lords (2.30): British Nationality Bill, committee, first day.

Housing survey in September

Mr. John Stanley, Minister of State for Housing and Construction, said in a written reply that the next English national house condition survey would be conducted in two parts.

The physical survey would begin in September and last for six weeks using professional staff drawn from local authorities and the private sector.

More talks on criminal procedure

HOUSE OF LORDS

Urgent attention should be paid to improving the criminal justice system, the royal commission report on criminal procedure because of the state of public disorder in the police in some parts of inner urban areas.

Lord Evans of Cloughton (Lab) said that the Government was studying the report. He said that the Government was studying the report.

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We see (he said) a need to invite more specific comment on some of the issues raised by the report, and the Home Secretary (Mr. William Whitelaw) is today announcing his intention of sending a consultative memorandum shortly to a wide range of interested bodies.

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Part three of Sonya: The Life of Countess Tolstoy by Anne Edwards

In the autumn of 1883, a new friend entered Tolstoy's life: the thirty-year-old Vladimir Grigorevich Chertkov, whom Sonya would come to regard as the devil incarnate. Like Socrates's devoted disciple Alcibiades, the young, strikingly attractive Chertkov was rich and aristocratic — the only son of a regal, domineering mother, who had been a close friend of the Empress Maria Alexandrovna [the Tsar's mother], and a military father who had served as an adjutant general under Alexander II. He was tall and slim and wore his clothes in a graceful, almost foppish fashion. His deep-set black eyes — so dark that there seemed to be no distinction between iris and pupil — had a rather cynical cast. His nose was aquiline; his expression suggested that he was an intense and wilful man, and in fact these traits had shaped his life. At an early age he had resigned his commission in the Horse Guards and had set out on a licentious life.

As Tolstoy had once done, he gave himself over to drinking, gambling, and dissipation. Several years later, under the threat of disinheritance, Chertkov took a sharp turn toward more useful activities. However, he had no clear idea of what he wanted to do, and he floundered about accomplishing little and wasting his financial resources. Within a relatively short time he worked, to little effect, in local government and also founded an unsuccessful trade school, an under-equipped clinic, and a financially insecure credit and savings company. He then threw himself (and a good part of the income from his estates) into charitable works inspired by what he had read and heard about Tolstoy's philosophy. He was now determined to assist the master himself.

In the beginning Sonya was disarmed by Chertkov, who aroused a certain pity in her. He spoke in a curiously high and drawing voice, a mannerism that he obviously hoped would disguise his slight stutter but that instead drew attention to it. Wearing knickerbockers and a Norfolk jacket, he cut a ludicrous figure as he walked with the peasant-garbed Tolstoy in Yasnaya Polyana's fields; and his inept attempts to help with the harvesting made him an object of fun. Sonya's amused compassion turned into a more reserved caution, however, when he began to display frightening moodiness; he was any and every irritable one moment, fiercely animated and restless the next. Tolstoy did not share his wife's growing coolness toward Chertkov. He was delighted by his new disciple and confidant, and within six months of their first meeting, he wrote in his diary, "he and I are amazingly as one."

His intimacy with Chertkov appeared to ease the painful feeling of isolation which had dogged Tolstoy during the years since his brother Nikolai's death. In his eyes Chertkov may have been the brother who should have lived, the son who was old and experienced enough to understand him, the companion in purpose and thought that Sonya was no longer. Tolstoy may have seen himself in his young protégé; and they shared many of the same traits — contempt of public opinion; an audacious independence and fearlessness in their dealings with those in authority; and a readiness to suffer for their convictions. And Chertkov had broken with St. Petersburg society as he had done, and thus relinquished the privileges of an aristocratic and pampered life which were his by birth. Tolstoy valued this renunciation highly.

Firm hold on affections

By early 1884 Chertkov had gained a firm hold on Tolstoy's affections and an important place in his daily life. Over the next decade he mounted a campaign to undermine Sonya by discrediting her to her children.

Chertkov was determined to exercise control over every scrap of paper on which Tolstoy had written. Most importantly, he wanted to gain possession of his notebooks. Although his motives remain obscure, he claimed to be driven by a desire to protect Tolstoy. He constantly urged Tolstoy and his children to regard these private papers as documents of a uniquely valuable import which must not be sullied by commercial publication. He further suggested that it would be an outrage for anyone (that is, Sonya) to profit from this record of Tolstoy's spiritual journey.

The diaries, notebooks, and letters had not been among the works whose copyrights Tolstoy had renounced, and under the terms of his will they were to go to Tanya and Masha. Chertkov began to bombard Tanya with letters of advice, suggesting that these papers must remain out of her mother's hands. Tanya finally asked Tolstoy what he wanted done with these writings after his death. He replied that while he had no objection to their being read by Tanya, Masha, and the other children, he did not want them to be published. Tanya then said that she believed his will left the decision about publication to Masha and her. "And to Chertkov," he added, saying that no one understood him as Chertkov did.

But was Chertkov, in fact, the ardent and faithful follower he claimed to be? While he did practise vegetarianism and lived



Sonya and Tolstoy at Yasnaya Polyana: Home, but not a haven



Chertkov: Campaigned to undermine Sonya

Wrestling with 'the Devil'

In 1883 a new and sinister figure stepped into the tussle for Tolstoy's affections — Vladimir Chertkov. Specifically, he and Sonya became over the following years rivals for Tolstoy's notebooks, the record of his spiritual journey, and the rights to his literary works. Chertkov did not scruple to use the children as weapons. To Sonya it seemed that "evil spirits have seized upon the man I love"...

Chertkovs, Sasha was shocked to hear members of the entourage refer to these three groups as "first, second, and third class." She also overheard an exchange between two of Chertkov's stable boys. After the first remarked, "Look, look, Alyosha is trying to squeeze into the first class," the second answered, "Well, he likes rice cakes and jam and stewed fruit. I guess he's tired of boiled potatoes and sunflower oil!"

Chertkov's proximity to Yasnaya Polyana was not all Sonya had to tolerate. He seldom left her alone with her husband during the day or evening. If he was not on hand himself, one of his secretaries or a trusted Tolstoyan was. He read every word Tolstoy wrote, sometimes demanding changes, to which Tolstoy almost always agreed. He followed him around with a notebook and took down any comment or conversation he deemed significant.

Sonya suddenly decided to travel to Stockholm. Age had dimmed her beauty, and Chertkov was undermining her position; she felt entirely exposed, unprotected, alone. Everyone around her — her husband, Sasha, even her secretary, who was now doing work for Chertkov and had been won over by him — was set in a conspiracy against her. Those who could have helped — her older daughter, her five sons, her sister Tanya — were never there when she needed them. At times she dressed with infinite care, coiffed her hair becomingly, and smiled indulgently as she made her way past the hated "dark ones," her back straight and her chin raised. She was often, however, seized by terror and hysteria. Strands of grey hair fluttered about her face and her dark eyes were red and swollen from weeping. During these times she would take no interest in her clothing, and her hand would tremble as she raised it to her throat — a frequent gesture, for emotional stress gave her a choking sensation. Sonya's

mental illness was certainly exacerbated by Tolstoy's refusal to confirm her rights to his works. He knew that she was not driven by greed but by pride. By denying her rights to his work, he denied her importance and denied her conviction that as his wife she held a position of special dignity and prestige.

Subject to his will

One evening Sonya made an entry in her diary under the heading "Memorandum Before Death." After listing all her symptoms — "spasm in the throat, sharp pains in [the] heart, a migraine headache, an inability to stop weeping" — she went on: "Is it hysteria? a nervous stroke, or the beginning of insanity? Let me confess the truth. I was wretched because of this long, unaccustomed separation from Lev Nikolaevich. He has a repulsive, senile love for Chertkov (in his youth he used to fall in love with men), and he is completely subject to his will and to his homosexual designs. [during 1908-10 she had frequently accused Chertkov of homosexuality.] I am insanely jealous of Lev Nikolaevich's intimacy with Chertkov; I feel that he has taken from me all that I have lived for during 48 years." Continuing in a less coherent fashion, she made complicated plans for poisoning herself. She described her coffin — "a rounded lid covered with rose-coloured or white brocade" — and remarked, "How enormous my nose will seem as it sticks up in death." The entry closes with a hysterical "Quicker! Quicker! It will be too late. . . I have drunk the opium. . . He is coming."

She had not taken a poisonous dose, but her delusions and mad dreams suggest that Sonya was indeed taking opium and that she was under its fearful effects quite frequently during this

a true understanding of our real relations — if you fear this, I am glad of the opportunity to express in my diary, or, quite simply, even in this letter, my relationship to you and my evaluation of your life.

My attitude towards you and my estimation of you are this: just as I loved you in my youth, so I have never ceased loving you, and love you still, despite various reasons for coolness. The reasons for this coolness were, first, my withdrawing further and further from the interests of temporal life and my repugnance for them, whereas you neither would nor could relinquish them, not having in your soul those principles that led me to my convictions — which is very natural and for which I do not reproach you.

The second reason is that your disposition in recent years has become more and more irritable, despotism, and lacking in self-control. The manifestation of these traits of character could not but cool, not my feeling itself, but the expression of it, that is the second reason. The third and main reason was that fatal one for which neither of us is to blame — which is our absolutely contrary understanding of life has been completely antithetical: the way of life, relations to people, even the means of living property, which I consider an "evil" and you consider a necessary condition of life. I have submitted to a way of life which was difficult for me in order not to part from you, while you have taken this as a concession to your views, and the misunderstanding between us has grown greater and greater. The point is that despite these misunderstandings I have not ceased loving and esteeming you.

My estimation of your life is this: I, a debauched man, deeply depraved in the sexual sense and no longer in my first youth, married you, a pure, beautiful, clever eighteen-year-old girl, and, my vile, dissolute past notwithstanding, you have lived with me for almost fifty years, loving me, living a hard, industrious life, bearing children, nursing them, rearing them, caring for them and for me, and not succumbing to the temptations that might easily have enticed any other strong, healthy, beautiful woman in your position. You have lived in such a way that I have nothing to reproach you for. I do not, cannot, reproach you for failing to follow me in my unusual spiritual movement, for each man's spiritual life is a mystery between him and God, and no one can require anything different of him. And if I have made demands on you, then I was mistaken, and in this I am guilty.

So here you have a true description of my relation to you and my estimation of you. And as for what can be found in the diaries, I only know that nothing harsh, nothing that would be contrary to what I am, now writing, will be found there.

Stop torturing, not others, but yourself, my darling, for you are suffering one hundred times more than anyone else. That is all.

Lev Tolstoy
Morning, 14 July 1910

On Tolstoy's instructions, his daughters Sasha and Varya went to Chertkov's to repossess the diaries (there was a tall, heavy stack of them). Without her father's knowledge, Sasha helped Chertkov, Sergeyenko [Chertkov's adviser], and Goldenweiser and his wife hastily copy any passages that Sasha thought he might destroy. Several hours later Chertkov, "standing on the porch . . . with mock solemnity, made the sign of the cross three times over [Sasha] with the packet of letters, and then handed them to her. It was not easy for him to part with them."

Sonya stood impatiently waiting on the veranda of Yasnaya Polyana as Sasha and Varya returned from their mission. She grabbed the large package with such vehemence that the diaries fell to the floor. She did not seem to understand all that was said to her and after a consultation with Tolstoy, it was agreed that two doctors, one the eminent psychiatrist G. I. Rossolimo, be asked to come from Moscow to examine her.

Final deed was done

After spending several hours with Sonya, the doctors stated that she was in a state of nervous collapse and was suffering from severe depression caused by menopause. Characteristically, Tolstoy did not agree; both he and Sasha continued to believe that she was simply "torturing herself and everyone else" by acting badly. The doctors left, having done nothing to improve Sonya's condition. Less than a week later Chertkov visited Yasnaya Polyana, and on seeing him Sonya became rude and antagonistic. The family and guests gathered on the terrace for tea. The samovar boiled cheerily on the table, the bowl of raspberries stood out like a bright red patch on the white tablecloth, but those sitting around the table looked as if they were serving a prison sentence and hardly touched their tea.

Sonya felt that "something awful and irreparable had just happened," and this conviction proved true. That morning Chertkov had dispatched three emissaries with a new revised will for Tolstoy to sign. Sasha and Tolstoy met the three "witnesses" in the woods near the village of Grumond and there, sitting on the stump of a tree, Tolstoy signed a will that placed all his works (including those written before 1881) in the public domain. He also signed a separate document, drawn up by Chertkov, which made Sasha the nominal executrix but Chertkov the actual administrator of his literary estate.

It had been done. The act which Sonya had so dreaded had been committed. The literary rights to Tolstoy's early works which she had so violently fought to keep for herself and her family had been lost.

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From Sonya: The Life of Countess Tolstoy, by Anne Edwards, which is published by Hodder and Stoughton at £8.50.

Tomorrow Tolstoy flees to his death



Apostle or leech? Chertkov sits on Tolstoy's right



Tolstoy with wife and daughters at Yasnaya Polyana

... ..

The war that neither side can ever win

Richard Owen considers the background of the Israeli-PLO conflict

"The trouble with this man Begin", one senior Western diplomat in the Middle East remarked recently, "is that he believes he has God on his side. The trouble with Arafat", he added, "is that he believes he has History on his side. I'm not sure which is worse."

It is certainly true that Menachem Begin is a man with a mission—the creation of a Greater Israel on biblical lands, and the preservation of such an Israel against all comers. Yasser Arafat has the opposite aim: to remove Israel from the map, and replace it with the lost paradise of Palestine. The one is a mirror image of the other.

The loser is Lebanon, which because of the Palestinian presence has now become the battleground of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Having been hounded out of Jordan in 1970-71, the Palestinians found refuge in Lebanon. They have shown little gratitude to the Lebanese, and have abused the country's sovereignty. But they are protected by Syria, which dominates Lebanese affairs and which has 22,000 troops in Lebanon in the guise of a "peace-keeping force".

The conflict in Lebanon has been brought to a head partly by Mr Begin's re-emergence as a political force in Israel. The fact that the Israeli electorate gave him enough support to enable him to form a new coalition evidently means that Israel's pre-election mood of belligerence is to be sustained, at least for the time being. In his autobiography, *The Revolt*, Mr Begin wrote: "Our enemies are many—our friends are few. If we learn and remember, we shall overcome all our enemies. They will never succeed in enslaving us again."

Israelis are receptive to rhetoric of this kind and are ready to believe that, since the world is against them, they must rely on their own



Begin and Arafat, leaders in a bitter struggle of attrition. The PLO can never hope to wear down the Israelis. Equally, for all its superior firepower, Israel will never be able to eliminate the PLO. That is the true tragedy of Palestine.



strength, using it to pre-empt any possible threat. This is the mood which lay behind the confrontation with Syria over the anti-aircraft missiles in the Bekaa Valley: the raid on Iraq's nuclear installation; and now the attempt to obliterate the Palestinians in Lebanon.

The reverse side of the coin is that the PLO, which in 1974 secured Arab support for its claim to represent the Palestinian people, has since become a military force to be reckoned with. PLO claims are to be taken with a pinch of salt, and propaganda boasts of "victories"—in "battles" are often inflated accounts of minor skirmishes. But talk of an Israeli-Palestinian war is not necessarily too wide of the mark. Thirty-three years after the Arab defeat in Palestine, the PLO is able to cause the Israelis enough trouble to provoke the massive onslaught of the past week.

Neither side can in fact win. The PLO can never hope to wear the Israelis down, let alone achieve even a partial military victory.

Equally, Israel, for all its superior firepower, will never be able to eliminate the PLO, however many Palestinian bases it hits. On the contrary, Israeli strikes, while destructive in the short term, only gain the PLO more recruits from among the young generation of Palestinians born in exile, who with the bitter passion of the refugee dream of returning to a land which in reality has changed out of all recognition.

That is the true tragedy of Palestine. Even if the Israelis were to occupy the whole of southern Lebanon, as some believe they might, the battleground would merely shift a little, and the Palestinians would continue to fight for a country which has long since ceased to be.

The result seems certain to be a drawn out and unwinnable war of attrition. The only way to avoid such an outcome is to return to the slow and painful business of trying to construct a formula for peace. Only a year ago, the atmosphere was relatively optimistic. Camp David had secured peace for Israel on its front with Egypt.

Although most Arab states rejected Camp David, the Arab world was divided into "moderates" and "radicals", with the moderates such as Saudi Arabia and Jordan much more amenable to Western proposals. The EEC Venice Declaration sought to bridge the gap between Camp David and the Arab cause by acknowledging the right of the Palestinians to self-determination. The European powers also tried to involve the PLO in talks on the future of the West Bank, on the (unstated) assumption that once drawn into the details of practical peace making, the PLO might move away from its maximalist position.

A year on, the European initiative is in tatters, peppered by broadsides from all sides. The PLO, far from softening its public utterances, has talked wildly of the destruction of Israel, with ambiguous remarks about a possible accommodation with the Jewish state lamentably few and far between. The Begin Government, for its part, has kept up a barrage

of hostility towards anything which smacks of treating with the devil.

The Reagan Administration, having failed to offer even token support for the Europeans' efforts, has yet to come up—after six months in office—with anything beyond a restatement of faith in the Camp David formula of autonomy, which has so far got nowhere and has even less chance of going anywhere as long as the Israelis and Palestinians are pounding each other.

This leaves the Middle East in a state of dangerous tension, with few channels of communication left open. Even Jordan has turned its face firmly against any move towards an Israel-Jordanian condominium of the West Bank, leading to Palestinian self-rule. In the present atmosphere of confrontation, Jordan could scarcely even hint at such a possibility even if it wanted to.

Saudi Arabia, too, has hardened its position. The Saudi offer of \$40m in aid to the PLO is a measure of the extent to which even the most conservative Arab

states feel it necessary to line up behind the PLO. This is in addition to the military aid provided by Libya and Syria, both of which have offered to move more heavy weapons, including anti-aircraft missiles, into Beirut to give protection against "Zionist aggression". Behind all these manoeuvres lies the ever-present danger of another Arab oil embargo in the event of a showdown in which the Western powers feel obliged to back Israel.

The main lesson for the West must be that Arab leaders, whatever their differences, are sincere when they say that the Palestinian question is the most pressing problem the Middle East faces. It is a profound mistake to try, as the Reagan Administration has tried, to persuade the Arab world that the Soviet threat to the Gulf is more important. Little love is lost between the Arabs and the Russians, and most Arab states—including Syria, which is nominally a Soviet client—would almost certainly prefer to see a Middle East which is peaceful and neutral but closely linked to Europe and America.

This means, or could mean, a Middle East in which a Palestinian state co-exists with Israel, with Western guarantees of security for both sides. But continued support by the United States for an obdurate and visionary Begin can only increase anti-Western feeling on the Arab side and encourage the wild men of the Arab world. This is a recipe for the kind of fight to the finish which both Mr Begin and Mr Arafat seem to regard as unavoidable, and which they both seem to want to bring about.

If this were to happen, with the inevitability of a self-fulfilling prophecy, the battleground would not only be hapless Lebanon but the wider Middle East, with Israel and the Arab states sucked into the fifth and probably most damaging in a series of disastrous wars.

Henry Fairlie Agnes's rough relations, still storming in

Washington
The sceptical English observer who, as some readers may have noticed, strolls through these columns, never lost for a keen observation, rarely gets hot under the collar. But this week he lost his cool.

"All this talk of a long, hot summer at home, sir," he expostulated, "when it's always a long, hot summer in this hole." He remembers when British diplomats in Washington were paid hardship money for serving in the tropics.

The temperature was climbing towards 100 deg F. The humidity was said, optimistically, to be only 85 per cent. Either a temperature inversion or some other form of stagnation was keeping the stale air at 7000 level. He said that two friends of his had recently gone back to England and had already complained of two days of high humidity there. This had been too much for him: "The humidity they mean, sir, is a little early morning dew."

American weather is not a conversation piece. Somewhere each day it murders man, woman or child; somewhere it scorches the earth, if not with drought and scorching winds, then with rain and blizzards. Since the land lies north and south between the tropics and the snows, as Emerson puts it, one extremity is bitten by frost while another is burned by the sun. The weather is always violent somewhere in America. There used to be a dotty school of thought, to which serious scholars like the late Sir Ernest Barker gave their names, which said that national character could be explained by the climate. Northern peoples were staid, Latin peoples were layabouts. One is not proposing any such explanation when one wonders about the effect of their climate on the lives and characters of the Americans.

In a few years on April 3-4, 1974, 148 separate tornadoes raked across 13 states, the largest number in American history. Some were among the most powerful ever seen. They left behind them 315 dead and 6,142 injured. Four years later, a tornado struck near Birmingham, Alabama, killing 22 people. On the same day in Georgia, an airliner crashed when its engines "drowned".

Although one has observed a tendency to drive across the country, one has no wish, for the sake of investigative reporting, to be in its path. At Union City, Oklahoma, on May 24, 1973, a 2,000 gallon petrol storage tank was carried half a mile. For 1,500ft it was airborne, and 1,500ft is the distance of the way it came to rest, to the delight of photographers, on a pedestal.

Even when unaccompanied by tornadoes, thunderstorms in America are not trifles. On the memorable June 6, 1977, a line of seven storms, with winds up to 70 mph, swept over the entire south-east. For once, it happened to be in the middle of the worst of them, as it rolled and reared and struck for three and a half hours across Virginia. The dead, when they were found and counted, numbered 16.

Hurricanes kill an average of 54 people a year in America; floods (not counting flash floods) kill 90; tornadoes 132. But lightning kills an average of 204 a year at a very conservative estimate. Moreover, this figure does not take into account the deaths from fires caused by lightning. It was lightning which, on the night of July 13, 1977, plunged New York into darkness, and into a night of looting and destruction.

No one who was in Washington in 1972 will forget Hurricane Agnes, which came from Virginia up to New York. The skies opened and, in some

places, 15in of rain fell. Rock Creek Park, which winds through the centre of Washington like a pleasant glen, was a furious river. In a few days, Agnes killed 117 people and caused \$3,000m damage. It was the costliest natural disaster in the country's history.

Then there are the flash floods, causing an average of 200 deaths a year. Fifteen thousand acres in the United States are designated as likely to have flash floods in any year. In the big Thompson Canyon in the Rockies, Colorado, which one had known well for several years and only recently left, a foot of rain fell in a few hours on the evening of July 31, 1976, and in the almost simultaneous floods, 137 people were killed.

The hail is no joke. The loss in crops each year totals an average of \$773m. On September 3, 1970, the hailstones in Coffeyville, Kansas, were 1 1/2 in diameter. In June 1978, Interstate Route 52, near New Mexico, was covered by six inches of hail, which had to be cleared by snowploughs. The stories of hail usually sound frivoli, but they are a fearful common place to farmers and fruit growers.

Of the blizzards which in winter rage across the East, Midwest and Mountain West, those in 1977 and 1978 outdid all others in the record books in their savagery and repeated ferocity and the loss of life. The city of Buffalo, New York, had 17 ft of snow in 1977. The wind chill took the temperature down to 60 degrees below zero. No one can truly count the damage to the landscape.

All the examples given here are from one person's recent memory and could be multiplied. As for the impact of such extremes on the life of the nation, one need point only to the migration from the "frost belt" to the "sun belt", which has significantly increased since the 1977 and 1978 winters. Many of the migrants say those winters helped to move them south.

Need to guard against disaster

There are other things to say. American agriculture is a wonder of the modern world. It feeds much of the world. Any nation which grows the country is astounded by its ingenuity and variety and productivity. Yet he will also, at any season, run into the devastation which has been caused that year by some turn of the weather. Grain and fruit and livestock are won by a people used to taming nature at its wildest.

It is easy to forget how recently most of this country was ploughed from the wilderness, even where we now see stretches of sight and to the huge prairies with their patterns of crops like inland woods. It is also easy to forget that even now it must all be tenaciously preserved in a country where, at any moment, in any year, disaster may strike.

To remember the extremes of climate also helps to remind one that, although federal aid may be needed to cope with the worst disasters, they depend on the states and localities. This country often seems to outsiders to be ludicrously disorganised. But then, there are not many countries where so many areas are so different from the blue.

The long, hot summer is a nuisance, alas, in Washington. But somewhere across the land a hurricane or a hail storm is forming, waiting to strike and forming the character, if not of the people, at least of their institutions.

Jobs: Why Britain's home-made record is worst

As unemployment soars to 2,352,000, the Government explains it is for the good of the cause—the price the nation must pay for our economic recovery. For comfort we are told we are not alone; we are victims of a world recession. It is strange, however, that in seeking consolation in the misfortunes of others, but it is true that what is happening to the British economy is the result of what is happening in the world? Are other countries experiencing unemployment on the scale we are?

The performance of the British economy over the past two years has been the worst of all the leading industrial nations. The OECD estimate the following changes in gross national product in real terms between 1979 and 1981:

Japan	+7.7%
Italy	+3.2%
Canada	+2.5%
United States	+2.3%
France	+0.8%
Germany	+0.3%
United Kingdom	-3.3%

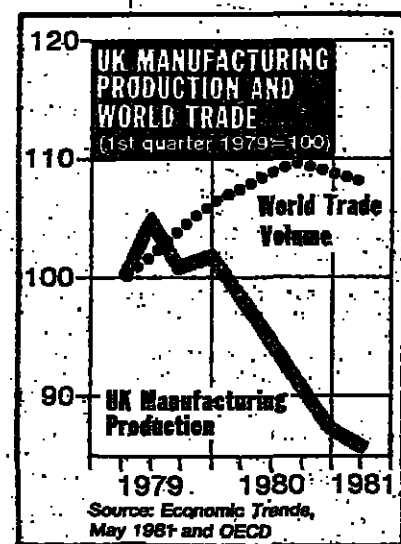
The component of gnp most vulnerable to world recession is manufacturing production. Here, sadly, the record is even worse. The first diagram shows how United Kingdom manufacturing has changed in the past two years and for comparison

the change in the volume of world trade. Manufacturing production was at a peak in the second quarter of 1979, since when it has fallen by 18 per cent.

If the world recession had been to blame for this dramatic decline through its impact on British exports, we would expect to see world trade falling at about the same time, and to at least the same extent, as United Kingdom manufacturing.

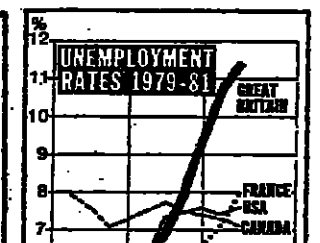
We find that nothing of the sort has occurred. World trade peaked late in 1980—more than a year after United Kingdom manufacturing—and, over the same period, our manufacturing output fell by 18 per cent, the volume of world trade did not fall at all but increased by 6.5 per cent. To make matters worse, it should be remembered that all our competitors suffered severe balance-of-payments shocks from the 1979-80 oil price rises while energy-rich Britain escaped virtually scot-free.

Thus, Britain's recent economic performance has been markedly worse than other countries. This is also true of our unemployment record. In order to make international comparisons it is necessary to use standardised definitions: here the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics estimates are used which include, for



example, unemployed school-leavers and the unemployed who have not registered. The second diagram shows the behaviour of unemployment in Britain and the other major OECD countries since 1979.

At the end of 1979, unemployment in Britain stood at 5.8 per cent of the labour force, which was the upper end of the international range—slightly lower than in the United States, Canada and France, but much higher than in Germany, Italy and Japan.



Since then, British unemployment has surged to a level far in excess of that in any other country. The standardised British unemployment rate of 11.5 per cent in May, 1981, represented a virtual doubling of the rate since the end of 1979. In none of the other countries did the unemployment rate increase by more than half.

In the 1974-75 recession, increases in British unemployment were exacerbated by the growth of the total labour force (which includes both

employed and unemployed). In the last two years the rise in British unemployment has to some extent been assuaged by a slight fall in the total labour force; the number employed has fallen even more than registered unemployment has risen. Thus changes in the labour force offer no justification for the rise in unemployment.

Nor can higher unemployment be attributed to increases in social security benefit (which monetarist claim are discouraging people from finding work). The opposite is the case. The reduction in the real value of unemployment benefit and the phasing out of the earnings-related supplement (which is due to be eliminated at the end of this year) mean that for most of the unemployed the proportion of income replaced when social security has fallen over the last two years.

The explanation for our unemployment lies squarely with the acute deficiency of demand and the acute deficiency of demand which has developed since 1979, exacerbated by the damage done to our competitiveness by the combination of high pay settlements and an appreciating currency. While demand may be starting to level out—though few would predict this with much confidence—in terms of unemployment worse is yet to come. The OECD are forecasting an

increase in the rate from 10 per cent to 12 per cent from the first half of this year to the second half of next year (on the United Kingdom national definition—about 1 per cent below the standardised definition used above); this represents another half a million unemployed people. This increase forecast for the United Kingdom is, again, larger than the increase forecast for any of the other major countries.

It is depressing to record, and no doubt to read, this sorry tale. But all the facts point to one thing, in terms of severity of unemployment, alone among the major nations. Our domestic recession bears one clear hall-mark: Made in Britain.

The Prime Minister in the debate on unemployment one month ago said: "There is nothing inevitable about high unemployment." Yet the Government's response sometimes appears to be little more than macro-economic micromanagement, hoping something, such as the economy, turns up. Such a passive stance cannot be justified on the grounds that we and other countries are all in the same boat.

Gavyn Davies and David Pichaud
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Will London lose The Connoisseur?

The *Connoisseur*, the monthly fine arts magazine, which has been published in London since 1901, may move its editorial base to New York. But it depends on who you talk to.

Reports have surfaced in New York that Thomas Hoving, former director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and more recently a television presenter, has been approached by the Hearst Corporation, the magazine's owners since 1927, about an editing job. What else could it be, say the New York gossips, but *Connoisseur*?

The present editor, Paul Attbury, was somewhat cagey when I spoke to him at his London office yesterday, but he did say there would be a "basic logic" to such a move, which he thought quite likely, since the main circulation and market is in America. He confirmed that he was in New York last week discussing the issue (among others). His own position had not been discussed.

Cagey as he was, he was more forthcoming than Marvin Sleeper, Hearst's press officer in New York. "It's all a dastardly rumour", he said. "There are no plans to move *Connoisseur* to New York or anywhere else."

Rich dressing

Not content with cheap replicas of American cars, Swiss watches and German radios, the Japanese now plan an outrageously expensive replica of Lady Diana Spencer's wedding dress—believe it or not. The Japanese Platinum Guild, I learnt yesterday at a reception at Cartier's

in Bond Street, has arranged for photographs of The Dress to be whizzed out to its dressmaker, who will weave a silvery simulacrum. The platinum ensemble will surely be a shade uncomfortable and is likely to cost £100,000 to make. If you're thinking of buying one, the real problem is that although platinum is an attractive metal, resistant to corrosion and with a high melting point, it does dissolve readily in one substance: aqua regia.

Don't bank on it

In a move which has raised many eyebrows in Whitehall, the Prime Minister has invited Mr Edward Heath to the Government's official lunch for visiting heads of state and government at the Bank of England immediately after the royal wedding.

Mr Heath has been to a number of receptions at No 10 since Margaret Thatcher came to power, but this is the first time he has been invited to an official luncheon. He is believed to be "somewhat surprised" (not to say flattered). Other former prime ministers are being invited, but there will inevitably be speculation about whether Mr Heath's presence indicates the possibility of yet another reconciliation with Mrs Thatcher.

Top loungers

If you have ever wondered, as I often have, who exactly is a VIP (apart from Times readers, of course), read on—as quickly as Concord. The House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee published yesterday as its "Annex G" a list of persons eligible for VIP status at Heathrow and Gatwick. I regret to say I am not included. Permanent secretaries may use these lounges (there are five at

THE TIMES DIARY

A cross-Channel swim with a difference is planned for next month when 21-year-old American twins James and Jonathan Bidonato, swim to make the crossing together, using the exhausted butterfly stroke. They took up swimming after being inspired by the success of Mark Spitz in the 1972 Olympics.

Heathrow and two at Gatwick—lounges I mean, not Perm Secs). Her Majesty's ministers are allowed in, and so is the Speaker of the House of Commons, but not common-or-garden MPs. The Lord Mayor of London is in, as is the chairman of the GLC (new-lower Mr Ken Livingstone will no doubt detect such favouritism). The chairman of Surrey County Council and the mayors of Hillingdon, Hounslow and Richmond Spelthorne also scrape under the wire.

The lounges, the Commons committee discovered, cost more than £2,000 a day to run, and it wants a serious scrutiny to be made. But that MPs want to incur resentment abroad by making unnecessary cuts; nor would it be right to admit a VIP and leave his several wives on the tarmac, as one member conceded.

The crucial point about the list is the all-important distinction it makes between those who do, and do not have to pay to get in. The Royal Family, the PM, former PMs, the Speaker, leaders of political parties (where that leaves the SDP I do not know), the Archbishops of

What's exactly wrong, professor, with living in the inner city?

Five years ago they moved from New York to Fort Lauderdale, and now they are moving back to their Channel attempt. Money for the project, James says, is still a problem. Their parents are paying their air fares out of Fort Lauderdale newspaper has given £2,500 for the fee. A place in the Guinness Book of Records awaits them if they complete the 21-mile crossing, from England to France.

Canterbury and Westminster and the Chief Rabbi, together with the various chairpersons already mentioned, are the only people, it appears, who do not have to dip into their pockets. It is nice to know that when those self-satisfied pop singers and ditty girls from Hollywood zap in and out they are not drinking themselves silly at our expense. When I leave for my vacation in Long Island next month I shall feel more content, among the queues, the plastic bags and the stiff sandwiches in Terminal 3.

Spartan Sinbad

An emaciated Tim Severin breezed into London yesterday after completing his epic eight-month voyage from Oman to China in the wings of the legendary explorer Sinbad the Sailor. The first thing he did was take his first fresh-water bath of the year and pour himself a large claret. Severin's 6,000-mile voyage in The Solah, a wooden replica of an ancient Arab sailing ship held together by coconut rope, was sponsored by the Government

of Oman, so there was not a drop of alcohol on board. Following the main direction and ports of call mentioned in the early Arabic texts, Severin and his crew of 25-Omani sailors, British photographers and scientists—covered the route of Arab traders from Muscat to Canton, via India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Sumatra.

Severin, who is 40, once sailed the Atlantic from Ireland in a leather curragh and, while still at Oxford, followed Marco Polo's route to the East by motor cycle. He seems to enjoy discomfort. He told me with some relish that everyone on board The Solah had to abandon their canvas bunkers for the deck because of the endless rain of bilge gas (hydrogen sulphide) from below. You will remember, from

Prague-on-Tees?

David Puttnam, producer of *Chariots of Fire* and *Bugsy Malone*, is to make a film about the 1968 Prague Spring and its suppression. Called *The October Circle*, it is based on a book by Robert Littell, who was *Newweek* correspondent in Eastern Europe at the time. Robert Bolt (*Lawrence of Arabia*, *A Man for All Seasons*) is writing the script and the film will be directed by Hugh Hudson, who directed *Chariots of Fire*. Casting has not yet been decided.

Puttnam tells me the film will not be specifically about the events in Czechoslovakia but their effect on a father and son living in another Soviet block country. It will be shot mainly in northern England.

Edna's cantata

Dame Edna Everage, wife, mother and superstar, has a number of stage firsts to her remarkable career. She was, for instance, the first man, playing a woman, to kiss a prime minister on the cheek as the first person on the boards to

be a cross between Max Miller and Mary Whitehouse: she was the first person to wear rhinestone specs in the West End. Now, for her tenth, she is to become the first transvestite housewife to sing in the Albert Hall with the London Symphony Orchestra.

The orchestra have my sympathy but, it seems, they are looking forward to it. The last night of the Proms, singing the dame, in new dresses, new specs, even an enrobe dress made by Midge of Melbourne, takes place on September 14 and 15 (two nights after the Proms end), when the dame will assume the title "Mrs Stephen".

Barry Humphries, who I gather has something to do with the proceedings, has written the words for a cantata, featuring the dame and the Ambrosian singers, renamed for the occasion the New Ambrosian Singers. Carl Davis (who won the BAFTA trophy for his theme tunes to programmes like *Hollywood* and *Oppenheimer*) has written the music and insisted on singing most of the loud bits to me yesterday over the phone.

It would appear from this that the dame has a virulent dose of Clive Jamesitis which affects all her words with a nasty habit of talking in rhyming couplets. "Why do I love Australia?" for instance, begins:

"It has always been a mystery profound, Why Australia took such a long time to be found."

The choir goes on: "Why do we love Australia? Why does it haunt us still? There's nobody we know there. And it costs so much to go there. And the chances are we never will."

With rhymes like that, Edna, you can see why not.

Peter Watson

مكتبة الأمل



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INVEST MORE IN PEOPLE

Another large increase in the unemployment figures, another small decrease in the rate of growth, if school-leavers are disregarded. But these are the months of the year when the new influx of former pupils on to the labour market is at its greatest, and school leavers are hardest to disregard. About a fifth of all the unemployed are under 19, and last January a fifth of all those under 19 were on the unemployment register.

The Government is responding with further moves to expand the youth opportunities programme, which has already trebled in size since it began three years ago. But the programme remains open to the criticism that it is essentially a palliative device to keep school leavers off the register. For most of them, it merely delays for a few months the moment when they have to sign on, and leaves them scarcely better equipped to find work than they were before.

In the aftermath of Brixton and Toxteth it is natural to look at youth unemployment in the context of the deep frustration and alienation that the riots expressed. But it is wrong to make too simple an identification between the two issues. The rioters' resentment at lack of opportunity must have been directed also at the narrowness and limited prospects of any work that might be available to them. And though it is usually the young who are most apt to break windows and throw stones, there is some reason to think that the humiliation of being without work is more often keenly felt by workers who are older, and more likely

to have family responsibilities. Moreover, many of those people charged after the rioting were shown to be in work.

The chief reason why it is right to be especially concerned about unemployment among the young is not that they are the age-group most easily made actively disaffected, nor that it makes the unemployment figures politically embarrassing. It is that the waste of their potential skills reinforces the cycle of low productive capacity and low rewards which holds the British economy back. The youngsters kicking their heels on the street today will be in the labour force or on the unemployment register until the 2020s, and it is an elementary matter of investment in human resources to get them usefully trained.

Forty per cent of Britons receive no formal vocational training after they leave school. That is one of the most obvious differences between Britain and other countries whose economies have performed consistently better than ours over the years. It is a problem that goes back far beyond the beginning of the present bout of unemployment. Its existence is generally acknowledged, but too often as a matter of form only. Vested interests on both sides of industry resist the introduction of effective training schemes, on grounds of expense, or out of fear that the young will be used as cheap labour to displace older workers. There is evidence that this has sometimes been the case, as it easily can be where schemes of training are informal and vague. A whole string of motions put down for this

year's Labour Party conference demand that every school leaver should be offered as of right a job on full union pay rates and conditions. That stipulation would rule out any significant training at work, even existing apprenticeship schemes.

Apprenticeship in Britain is in any case almost moribund. This year perhaps one school leaver in six will enter a job offering apprenticeship or similar training. It is only available in a limited number of industries, and its form is often, rigid and outdated, taking too little account of the new need for re-training throughout one's career, and ritualistically based more on time served than on skills acquired. These factors, combined with the fact that apprentices earn almost as much as qualified workers, make many managers cynical about the system.

In West Germany about half of all school leavers continue with regular, part-time educational work. The content of the courses is determined at national level, though their operation is left to local businesses. Employers are aware of their own interest in fostering skills in the work force of the future: unions, confident that the well-defined schemes prevent any risk of undercutting of pay, are ready to negotiate pay rates for apprentices relatively much lower than those in Britain. Mr Prior's promised study of industrial training should concentrate on examples such as these, and seek to disarm the prejudices on both sides of industry which prevent us from investing more effectively in our young people.

STIMULATING THE PULSE OF COMPETITION

Our telecommunications industry is slowly edging towards efficiency, or at least towards an institutional climate in which efficiency might develop. The British Telecommunications Bill is about to receive the royal assent. The powers provided under that Bill for the Secretary of State to license private competition with the nationalized British Telecom are also under active consideration by the Cabinet. In particular, a decision is awaited on whether to allow the Cable and Wireless consortium a licence to operate an additional network primarily geared towards business users.

Some of the matters involved in this latter decision are of a technical complexity which will certainly baffle Ministers as much as civil servants and commentators. There are, however, some basic issues which concern the public interest. At root is our wide and sad experience which shows that monopoly is bad for us — in the long run bad for all of us, though it may prove comfortable in the short run for those managing and working in the monopoly.

If the new British Telecom has started life with an inheritance of over-manning, over-pricing, out-dated technology and a dissatisfied public, that is primarily because of its monopoly origins. Many past Governments share the blame, particularly in their readiness to cut capital investment. But the main responsibility lies with the absence of competitive pressures which give birth to the attitude that the convenience of the producer comes before that of the consumer.

The present Government was elected on a commitment to correct this slackness in the public monopolies. Licensing a small alternative telecommunications network now would be a desirable move in that direction. Cable and Wireless also claim that their proposals involve more advanced technology than that operated by British Telecom. They would give to British industry the stimulus and the home market to manufacture fibre optic cable, and to our services the most modern telecommunications infrastructure.

The business sector which private enterprise seeks to share is lucrative and at present, according to British Telecom, subsidizes other services to the general public. The ordinary citizen on his private line or in a street call box would therefore be the one who pays the higher price. The Government may wish to cushion such unintended victims. But it should not be forgotten that only a monopoly can choose to claw back lost profits from its weakest customers — rather than, for instance, from greater productivity.

British Telecom has shown some encouraging signs of life recently, planning to market a wider range of services. For its own good, it should not fight to retain its monopoly position.

What are the qualities of a great Test match? Few of the thousands who were there yesterday and on Monday, or the millions more who watched the play on television, will deny that Headingley 1981 deserves to be inscribed on that roll of honour. It had drama. It had heroes. It will live in the memory.

It cannot, however, be regarded as the greatest of all Tests because there have been others which were even closer, where the fluctuations of fortune were more frequent if not more remarkable, and in which a higher level of skill was on display throughout. Few matches could have been closer than the first Test during the MCC tour of South Africa in 1948-49, which was won by two wickets off the last ball of the match from a leg-by off Cliff Gladwin's thigh — with Alec Bedser, now England's chairman of selectors, the batsman at the other end.

Lord's 1963 would be hard to beat. That was the occasion when England drew with the West Indies, six runs short of victory with the last English pair at the wicket — one of them, Colin Cowdrey, with his arm in plaster, fortunately not having to face a ball in those

last dramatic overs. That was a match which certainly had its heroes: Ted Dexter, assaulting the West Indian fast bowlers, Hall and Griffith, for 70 flamboyant runs during England's first innings; Brian Close, heroically charging down the wicket to those same bowlers while also scoring 70 in the second innings; and Wes Hall himself bowling with unflinching hostility during that final Tuesday afternoon. Throughout the five days fortunes swung to and fro repeatedly, and the technical quality of the cricket was of the highest standard.

For a match that had everything the first Test of the series at Brisbane in 1960 between the West Indies and Australia must surely be unsurpassed. A tie off the last ball of the match, one of the greatest Test centuries by Garfield Sobers, and a memorable series to come — who could ask for more than that? Only those who judge a cricket match simply in terms of victory and defeat. For Englishmen no victory was sweeter than the one which recovered the Ashes for the first time for nearly twenty years at the Oval in 1953. That was memorable, but the victory was ultimately achieved too comfortably for the match

but should openly welcome future competition. It should also turn the free market arguments on the Government in relation to its own capital requirements.

The recent Beesley report recommending liberalization of the networks argued convincingly and consistently that British Telecom should be able to go freely to the commercial markets to raise the finance for investments in new technology. The Treasury has not so far allowed this because of the PSBR implications. It would surely be in the national interest, and consistent with the Government's underlying philosophy, to encourage British Telecom to raise the money for profitable projects. That is quite different from public spending on pay or bureaucracy.

The Government should also encourage British Telecom, as it is empowered under the new Bill, to diversify and set up subsidiaries operating in the rapidly expanding field of communications technology. But it should also always ensure that the discipline of competing services is operating as well. It is not the ideology of ownership, the weary political arguments that public or private is better than the other, which concerns people. The public wants an efficient and cheap service. British Telecom does not yet, but could, offer that. The Government should help it to do so by offering it the resources for investment and the stimulus of competition.

THE TEST OF QUALITY

itself to be considered a great one.

Perhaps the supreme criterion by which to judge a great match is whether it passes into cricketing folklore. That honour belongs more than any other to the Oval Test of 1902: Jessop's Test match when, at the end of a disastrous summer, England defeated Australia by one wicket. Few cricket enthusiasts today can have any idea of the level of skill generally displayed in that match. But more than three-quarters of a century later it is still possible to respond to the drama of England's recovery, with Jessop's daring century and the last-wicket stand between the Yorkshiremen, Hirst and Rhodes, when they scored the final fifteen runs in singles.

For the drama of their recovery England's performance at Headingley this week may even compare with that. A great Test match must appeal to the child in all of us. We need heroes; we need suspense; and we need the sudden joyous satisfaction of enjoying a prize that we had thought far beyond our grasp. It is because they provided all of these that Ian Botham and Bob Willis have brought a little sunshine far beyond the city of Leeds.

Cervical cancer reminder schemes

From the Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Security. Sir, Your story about changes in the arrangements for a cervical cancer screening scheme (Whitehall and many other drop in cancer testing, July 20) completely underestimates the commitment of health ministers to preventive health programmes which include the cervical cytology programme. This was clearly stated when we issued a consultative paper about a new recall scheme issued in April of this year.

There is general agreement that a new recall scheme is required. An expert working party advised the department that the existing scheme was labour-intensive, near its technical limits, isolated from other screening developments, and did not generate useful information about its own effectiveness. In short, the conclusion was that the present scheme was ineffective and inefficient.

We are now studying the concept which the consultative paper has generated and, as we pointed out in April, we want the present scheme to be replaced by arrangements made by individual general practitioners for their own patients or local arrangements by health authorities or family practitioner committees to ensure that as many women as possible are regularly reminded of the vital importance of cervical smear tests.

We are considering launching a national campaign to encourage as many women as possible in the priority groups to come forward for screening, and to remind women who have been tested of the need for follow-up tests at regular intervals.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE YOUNG,
Department of Health and Social Security,
Alexander Fleming House,
Elephant and Castle, SE1,
July 21.

Belvoir coalfield

From Mr A. P. Woolrich. Sir, Nature is a great healer, and the Duke of Rutland (July 8) will find, if he visits the older industrial areas of Britain, that sites very quickly revert back to nature. The Bristol coalfield, for example, now has very little evidence to show, and the same is true of the Forest of Dean coalfield, both of which were worked with little attention to the environmental problems they caused.

According to the press reports the National Coal Board have repeatedly stated that the proposed Belvoir field will be worked to the highest environmental standards, and this has to be accepted since it would be in the interests of themselves or the miners they employ to operate otherwise.

The kind of landscape to be found in the Vale of Belvoir is not natural, but is the result of farming practices developed since the enclosures. It is not unreasonable to assume that once the mines are worked out and the sites of the pits are returned to farming the landscape will revert to its present state, and future generations will have little reason to be disturbed by what was done.

Yours sincerely,
A. P. WOOLRICH,
Canal Side,
Huntworth,
Bedfordshire,
Somerset.

Remanding prisoners

From Mr Gershon Ellenbogen. Sir, As it is proposed that subsequent remand hearings may take place in the prisoner's absence only if he agrees, and as his legal representative, whom he must have, will obviously make it his business to attend if it is desired to make an application for bail or for any other purpose, it is difficult to follow the objection raised by the Howard League for Penal Reform (July 18) to legislation which, in addition to relieving the burden on police and prisons, will save time and expense in magistrates' courts.

I am, etc.,
GERSHON ELLENBOGEN,
2 Gray's Inn Square,
London WC1,
July 20.

Parochial charities

From Sir Charles Kimber. Sir, I write, like the Reverend J. D. Johns (July 6), to support Miss Janet Fookes and Lady Fairfax in their plea (July 2) for government action on parish charities for the poor.

Between 1967 and 1977 I reviewed over 400 such charities in this country. The review was one of dozens conducted by local authorities all over the country under the Charities Act of 1960. Most needed new trust deeds to remove archaic conditions restricting the use of the money to purposes which were no longer suitable and effective; most needed their endowments reinvested. Laboriously and expensively this was done; yet in its main purpose of putting the money to good use the review was an almost total failure.

As soon as one put the figures together the reason was plain and so, too, was the remedy. Mr Johns's four little charities, separately available in three parishes and worth in total £15 a year, are a typical of the very large majority. If at present the trustees of parish charities "do not take their duties seriously", as Mr Brooke relates (July 8), who can blame them when they can now only provide peanuts with money which used to buy tons of coal?

The figures showed, however, that there is a small minority of

Warrington's message for democracy?

From Mr J. R. Rathbone, MP for Leves (Conservative) and Sir Nigel Fisher, MP for Kingston upon Thames, Surrey (Conservative). Sir, The Warrington by-election result is generally regarded as being a plague on both Government and Opposition and an expression of frustration from an electorate who lost by appointment elsewhere a much respected MP. These reasons are essentially negative, following the established thesis that in most elections parties and candidates are voted out, not voted in. But, in recent years, this principle cannot be applied to by-elections.

So what were the SDP offering positively to obtain the showing they did? Well-known candidate, of course, but by all prior analysis not ideally suited to Warrington. Interest in a new party, probably, but its novelty meant no organization on the ground. An economic policy to solve Warrington's unemployment for a social policy to reduce tension and unrest, certainly not the SDP platform was an unremarkable amalgam of Labour and Liberal policies such as anyone would expect from a left-wing party.

It appears, on looking across the political divide, that the one thing which so many of the voters of Warrington voted for was SDP commitment to the introduction of more proportionate elections to the House of Commons, which would end the desire to the extremes of socialism of the far left or of national socialism of the far right for evermore.

The potential to commit, measured by every single opinion poll recently, and the readiness to commit as shown by votes for the SDP in this by-election, has even greater importance for the Conservative Party than the SDP. Because, if we wish generally to preserve from future socialist reversal the radical and long overdue changes in our economy and our society which our Conservative Government has set itself to achieve, then it is imperative that our method of electing future governments must be changed to reflect more closely the essential good sense of the British electorate and to endow it with the desire to conserve national unity and purpose which is in almost every one of us.

This is not to claim that electoral reform offers a panacea for our national problems; it does not. But we do believe that a more proportionally elected Parliament would be likely to bridge the widening gaps between north and south, large city centres and other

Civil Service pensions

From Mr Roy Cattran. Sir, On June 29 you reported the MP for Croydon South as saying, in proposing legislation to end index-linking of pensions, "it is ridiculous to endeavor to immunize all civil servants from the economic recession".

Whatever that means — and recession or no, conspicuous spending remains a feature of the business world, not the public service — one can agree it would be wrong to maintain the standard of living of public-service pensioners unchanged if other people's living standards have to fall. But surely it is also true that public servants have earned their pensions, and to pay them in debased currency is to cheat them of their share of the goods and services being enjoyed by the nation as a whole.

The index-linking controversy is bedevilled by the fact that the wrong index is being used at present. It may well be that future standards of living, and therefore pension levels, will be considerably lower than at present; continued use of the cost-of-living index for pay or pension purposes will become obviously absurd in that event.

Prayer and fasting

From Mr B. D. S. Lock. Sir, Why is it that with unemployment nearing three million, British Rail regularly cancels buffet cars, allegedly for lack of staff?

Last Saturday I went from London to Cheltenham for a wedding. In each direction, although the trains were long distance trains, the buffet car was cancelled.

There was no chance of having a meal before I went into the church and, as I sat under an

inscription of the Ten Commandments, I could not help but covet my neighbour's ox and think of the steak bars which I had had to hasten past to reach the church on time.

The most modest trains in Switzerland have trolleys with drinks and sandwiches trundled up and down the corridors. Why can we not have them in this country?

Yours faithfully,
B. D. S. LOCK,
13 Milner Street, S.W.3,
July 20.

communities, the employed and the unemployed — and more. These are the true dimensions of the need for electoral reform. For Conservatives, appreciation of that need could make the difference between victory and defeat at the next election. Isn't this the real message from Warrington?

Yours truly,
J. R. RATHBONE,
NIGEL FISHER,
House of Commons.

From Mr Martin Maycock. Sir, Warrington's SDP/Conservative alliance voters have shown us that we need not despair of our political situation.

I suggest the following timetable. The SDP and the Liberal Party should allow themselves three months to work out their internal arrangements, and to draft an agreed programme. At the end of October all the present SDP and Liberal MPs should resign their seats, together with the other MPs certain not to join them, and fight the consequent by-elections as alliance candidates.

The members returned as a result of these elections would be able to "speak for Britain" with unparalleled authority. If anything approaching the Warrington outcome were repeated in as many as a score of these constituencies the Prime Minister's duty would be obvious.

Of course it is a hazardous move. But the alternative is to sit on our hands while the Thatcher policies are tested to destruction, and our children's hopes destroyed with them.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN MAYCOCK,
27 Milton Road,
Hanwell, W7.

From Mr David Marshall, MP for Glasgow, Shetland (Labour). Sir, The result of the Warrington by-election has gained for the Social Democrats an entrée to the world of realism.

Therefore the question must now be answered: if they held the balance of power after the next general election, which way would they jump in helping to form the next Government?

Will they give their parliamentary support to help the return of a Labour Government or will they use their numbers to give the Tories another term? Yours faithfully,
DAVID MARSHALL,
House of Commons,
July 18.

Pensions should be linked to current pay levels, not price levels. If pay falls behind prices, pensioners should share in the general belt-tightening, and if returning prosperity brings pay ahead of prices, public-service pensioners (whose working careers began in an altogether leaner world) should surely share that, too.

The cost-of-living link was introduced when it was the usual assumption that "standards of living" would go on rising indefinitely, so that this link was cheaper. It is an indication of public (and media) attitudes that the principle is being attacked only now when, unexpectedly, it is working to the advantage of public-service pensioners.

However, two wrongs do not make a right, and public-service pensioners can have no legitimate grievance if the cost-of-living link is replaced by a system which allows the real value of their pensions to fall, or rise in step with some appropriate index of earnings in the community at large.

Yours faithfully,
ROY CATTRAN,
2 Donnington Road,
Penzance,
Cornwall.

From Mr D. Steel. Sir, Mr Hector McDonnell (July 14) is not the first to protest about rain damage to the public records. The "Royal Westminster" exhibition includes a letter of complaint to Sir Christopher Wren, of June 1701, about leaks to the roof of the Westminster Chapter House, in which the public records were then stored. Yours faithfully,
D. STEEL,
77 Weymouth Road,
Highgate, N6,
July 15.

From Mr D. Wilkinson. Sir, I sympathize entirely with Mr. H. H. Harman over his treatment at the archaic El Vino's (letter, July 18). But why does she think a "long-serving prostitute" more deserving of abruptness than an "officer of the court"? Yours truly,
D. WILKINSON,
26 Nowell View,
Harbills,
Leeds 9.

From Mr John Hartcup. Sir, Your front page on July 15 carried the news that bones venerated for centuries near Moscow are in fact those of Tatar invaders, not Russian saints. As the famous French saying has it: "Gratter le russe et vous trouverez le tatar".

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HARTCUP,
Swanton Court,
Sevington,
Ashford,
Kent,
July 16.

From Mr Simon Owen. Sir, Eight hundred pounds per choirboy at the royal wedding certainly is a sign of the times. When I sang in the Chapel Royal choir at the wedding of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon I received £1 17s 6d from ITV and a slightly smaller sum from the BBC.

I can assure you I sang my heart out on the less and the glorious memory of the occasion needed no financial embellishment.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON OWEN,
187 Wandswoth Bridge Road, SW6,
July 17.

Architects' share in education grants

From the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Sir, I understand that the University Grants Committee did not consult any of the professional bodies in formulating its advice to the universities upon the financial reductions required by the Government, and on behalf of the Royal Institute of British Architects I must comment now.

I have myself argued in the past that numbers in architectural education should be related to the realities of the work available for architects. This is still necessary. The construction industry is suffering badly from the recession. Architects are not unaffected. But we are dealing with long-term issues and the shorter-term way in which the matter is being handled is deplorable. In the UGC's guidance to the universities has been given independently of an overview of the whole system of higher education. Architecture courses are offered not only by universities but also by polytechnics and other colleges. The Government should coordinate higher education properly.

Secondly, the UGC has indicated that provision for architecture should be reduced because of the lack of professional employment prospects. But it has an outstanding record for the employment of its graduates. It combines literacy, numeracy and visual judgement with an intimate knowledge of the nation's most important industries, giving a flexibility of opportunity equalled by few, if any, other subjects.

A recent edition of the Gazette published by the Department of Employment states that University graduates least likely to be unemployed at the end of 1979 were those with degrees in medicine, architecture, . . . (only six other fields named). Those already committed to enter the universities this autumn will not enter a market which is not at the end of the decade.

Despite the recession the work of design has become more labour-intensive and the public more demanding in the standards it expects. The Royal Institute is promoting a variety of ways in which the effectiveness and flexibility of the profession can be developed, which will increase employment opportunities. I intend to ensure that the service available from architects becomes not only better, but better known, and better used as well. Who can therefore safely predict now with any accuracy the scope for service to society in the 1990s of the coming generation of students?

In the face of the emerging demographic and economic realities of the 1980s, the RIBA will not defend blindly the current numbers of schools or of students of architecture. However, it will defend the overall level of resources available for architectural education. Maybe these resources could be used to better effect. But if there is to be rationalization in the national interest, let it be truly rational and national.

Yours sincerely,
OWEN UDER,
Royal Institute of British Architects,
66 Portland Place, W1,
July 17.

Record rainfall

From Mr D. Steel. Sir, Mr Hector McDonnell (July 14) is not the first to protest about rain damage to the public records. The "Royal Westminster" exhibition includes a letter of complaint to Sir Christopher Wren, of June 1701, about leaks to the roof of the Westminster Chapter House, in which the public records were then stored. Yours faithfully,
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Highgate, N6,
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Wine bar

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Harbills,
Leeds 9.

Beneath the skin

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Yours faithfully,
SIMON OWEN,
187 Wandswoth Bridge Road, SW6,
July 17.

Treble chance

John Woodcock reports on a famous cricket victory

... and these were the last men to do it

England awake to a new Jerusalem

HEADINGLEY: England beat Australia by 18 runs.

England's victory in the third Test match, sponsored by Cornhill, at Headingley yesterday was greeted by the kind of scenes reserved for great sporting occasions. After Australia, needing only 130 to win, had been bowled out for 111, the crowd massed in front of the pavilion, cheering their heroes and waving the Union Jacks they were saving for the Royal wedding.

While at one end of the balcony Brearley and his victorious team were being serenaded, at the other Alan Border, who had not long before been out for nothing, was being carried off in a stretcher, his head buried in his hands. It was a moment of disaster as well as of triumph.

Kim Hughes, even so, was gracious in defeat, giving credit where it was due and saying that, whereas from tea-time on Monday the luck had gone mostly England's way, before that the Australians had had the greater share of it.

If Botham's unforgettable innings made the recovery possible, it was Willis who crowned it with a marvellous piece of bowling that Australia had got to within only 74 runs of their target with nine wickets standing. When play started yesterday morning, the chances seemed to be that Willis was playing in his last Test match. He had bowled below his best in England's first innings and it was not until his second spell, now after he had changed ends, that he caught the wind.

That was where Brearley came in. His return to the England side has not only released Botham to play his game unhampered by the burden of captaincy, it meant that England, with so few runs to play with, were under the command of a supreme tactician. To everyone on the ground, except those who wanted Australia to win, it was a great reassurance to

see Brearley handling the situation with calm and understanding. After England's last wicket had added only another five runs at the start of the day, Brearley opened the bowling with Botham. Dilley, England's third different new ball partnership of the match. His reason for this was purely psychological: Botham and Dilley having shared such a decisive partnership with the bat, it was worth seeing whether they could repeat it with the ball.

In the event Dilley, though he was to play a great catch in the innings, was taken off after two unimpressive overs. Although in his second over Botham had Wood caught at the wicket he looked hardly in the mood to move another mountain.

That Willis was the man to do this, at the age of 32, and with knees that have often had to be supported by sticks, was a mark of rare courage. He had started with five rather laboured overs from the Footfall Stand End. At 48 for one, half an hour before lunch, Brearley gave him the green light. The decision which launched him on his devastating spell.

It was noticeable even in his first over from the Kirkstall Lane End that Willis was bowling faster than in his earlier spell; not only that, he was making the ball lift as well. At 56, he got one to rear almost automatically at Chappell, who cocked it up for Taylor, running forward, to take the catch. At 58 in the last over before lunch, Hughes and Dilley both went without scoring. Hughes beautifully caught at second slip by Botham, diving to his left, and Dilley also out to a very good catch. Gunning, standing his ground at short leg and reacting quickly to Taylor's desperate attempt to drive down another, kicking delivery, threw himself forward for the ball.

Whereas at the start of the day the skies were clear, by now the clouds were rolling in, causing the

ball to move about rather more, even to bounce more steeply. To keep his hands warm for the slip catch that could have gone his way, Brearley was constantly blowing in them.

With Taylor's departure, off the fifth ball of an over, lunch was taken. I harboured a fear that during the interval Willis might stiffen up, but not a bit of it. Brearley had him on again straight away afterwards, 'bowling as furiously and well as I have ever seen him. When, in making a superhuman effort he was occasionally no-balled, Brearley told him not to bother, bowl your fastest, he said, and keep digging it in.

After Old had knocked out Border's leg stump, a vital contribution, Willis did the rest. At 68 he had Dyson caught at the wicket, hooking, as important a wicket as any in view of the skill and resolution with which Dyson had played.

At 74 Marsh, a dangerous customer, hooked him to long leg where Dilley, only a yard in front of the crowd, judged to perfection a high and horrible catch. At 75 Lawson gave Taylor his 1,217 first class wicket, a new wicket-keeping record, though in all the excitement few knew it.

There followed a partnership between Bright and Lillee which rekindled Australia's fading hopes. Taking their lives to their hands, they added 35 in four overs before another fine catch, this time by Gunning, accounted for Lillee. Running in from mid-on, Gunning dived forward for a mis-timed hook. The ball was a long time in the air and Gunning had a lot of ground to cover.

With only 20 needed and Lillee and Bright going as well as they were, Willis's wicket was a vast relief. There was only Alderman to be dealt with now and to finish things off Brearley brought back Taylor, who was a great relief. There was only Alderman to be dealt with now and to finish things off Brearley brought back Taylor, who was a great relief. There was only Alderman to be dealt with now and to finish things off Brearley brought back Taylor, who was a great relief.

man twice in the over. As it was in the next over Willis yoked Bright and the match was won. It was not a good Test pitch. Nor it was at Headingley for the first Test of the series. The Edgbaston next week it should be different. In trying to produce something fast and true, the groundsmen at Headingley made one that was unpredictable and patchy. But at least he tried.

England's choice of four fast bowlers proved, after all, the right one. Had Australia followed suit, Lillee, Alderman and Lawson would not have been as used as they were on Monday evening when Botham played his marvellous innings.

What does that matter? They shared in a match that was a victory for cricket. To hear them singing Jerusalem down below you would think that it had revived a nation, too.

But, Robin, they call him Jessop in the paper today. It was the most remarkable innings I've ever seen." That was Brearley on the way to the Pavilion.

Botham's 148th out, as Hughes has said, must be one of the finest innings of all time. Very few could have played it, not only among contemporary cricketers, but partly because of his enormous strength. He weighs 16 stone, all of which went into the marvellous drives that made up the majority of his 28 boundaries.

Grace, Bradman, Hobbs, Compton, Hutton, Worrell and Sobers, they all had their different ways of playing. Few of them resemble most closely among postwar batsmen that of Clyde Walcott, another giant of a man. It is hard to see how, if he was not possible could he have played more magnificently.

Australia: First innings 401 for 10 (1st Test). Second innings 254 for 10 (2nd Test). England: First innings 224 for 10 (3rd Test). Second innings 111 for 10 (4th Test).

England's victory after following on at Headingley was only the second such instance in Test history. In 1894-95, in the first Test of a five-match series, England's 325 and 437 in reply to Australia's 586 led the home team to make 177. It seemed a foregone conclusion, but the players went down to the ground and found it much affected by overnight rain.

Not all the England players were punctual. Peel, the Yorkshire slow left-arm bowler, having supposed the match lost, embarked on a night of heavy drinking. He was further discomfited by the recent loss of several teeth. His captain, Andrew Stoddart, put him under a cold shower, apologized to Australia's captain, Blackham, by whose forbearance the day's play began 20 minutes late, and led his men out. Peel bowled straight enough to take six for 67 on a difficult pitch and Australia lost by ten runs.

The closest finish in a Test, in terms of runs—apart from the tied Test at Brisbane between Australia and West



Team of 1894-5 (left to right). Back row: A. C. McLaren; F. G. Ford; R. Peel; T. Richardson; A. Ward; L. H. Gay. Middle row: W. Brockwell; A. E. Stoddart (captain); J. Briggs; H. Phillipson. Front row: J. T. Brown; W. A. Humphrey.

Of heroes, heroics and stealing home...

By David Frith

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The closest finish in a Test, in terms of runs—apart from the tied Test at Brisbane between Australia and West

Indies in 1960-61—was at Old Trafford in 1902. England, needing 124 to win, were reduced to 116 for nine when Fred Tate, father of Maurice, went to the middle. An edged four took England to within a boundary stroke of success, but Tate's lounge at Jack Saunders, the Victorian left-arm bowler, missed. The three-run defeat was engraved on his heart, for in his only Test match he also missed a key catch. It was said that he promised the nation that his small son would one day avenge him.

The 1902 series was climaxed by one of only five one-wicket results in Test history. Gilbert Jessop's 75-minute century at Trent, recalled on Monday as Botham laid about him, left England needing 15 when the ninth wicket fell. Hirst and Rhodes, far from getting them in singles—or even planning to get them in singles—gathered the runs with Yorkshire coolness.

The largest tenth wicket stand to win a Test came at Johannesburg in 1906, when South Africa's captain Sherwell managed 22 not out and helped Dave Nourse (93 not out) make 48 against a strong English attack.

Two years later, it was England's turn once more to steal home, again, against Australia, in a match which ought to have been Test cricket's first tie. 53 years before the Australia-West Indies thriller, The Melbourne New Year Test match of 1908, ended with 57 runs and Arthur Waddell's 39 frantic runs in full. Australia, the last of them seemingly fatal as Hazlett fielded at cover and had only to return straight to the wicket-keeper. He hurled the ball widdly and England made it.

Cape Town saw the next one-wicket margin. In 1922-23 England levelled the series in the second Test when Alec Kennedy and George Macaulay conjured five runs after Alfie Hall, the Springbok left arm bowler, had taken seven wickets in the innings. The last occasion spectators were submitted to such unfair tension was 30 years ago at Trent when Don Bradman and the clumsy Bill Johnston ran the West Indians into a riotous panic in the field while making 38 runs, a performance which secured the series.

The author is editor of Wisden Cricket Monthly.

Courage and determination help Willis stand Test of time

By John Woodcock

When Bob Willis was forced to return home from Trinidad on February 20 this year, two months before the start of the England tour of West Indies, he had been seen by few people who did not think he had played his last Test match. Even if the damage to his back, which he had suffered in the middle of the 1970s, when for two years he was under the

surgeon and out of the England side, even as long ago as that, his career was in jeopardy, especially in view of his great height and the fact that, lacking the rhythm and action of the great fast bowlers, he imposes an unnatural strain upon his frame.

But Willis is no ordinary cricketer. He is a man of great public eye when chosen, somewhat surprisingly, to fly out to Australia in November 1970 as a replacement for the injured Alan Ward.

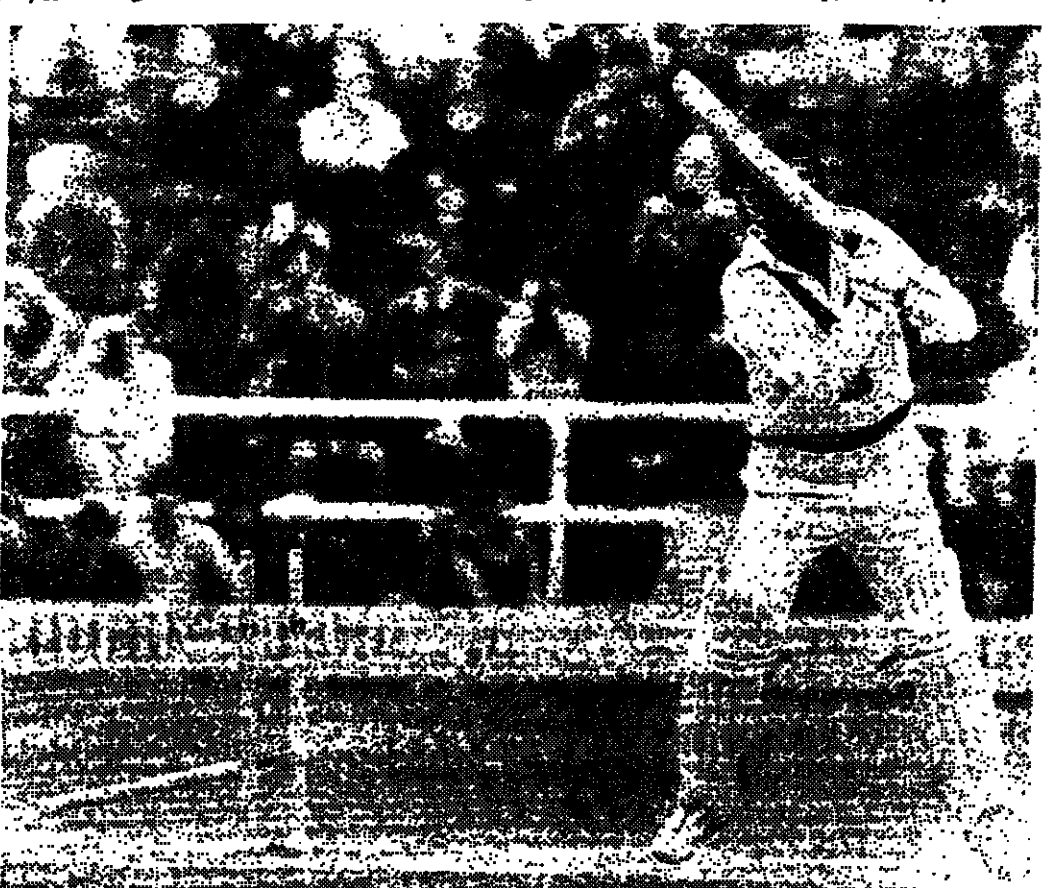
By the end of the tour he had developed from an unbroken colt

into a confident young man who had forced himself into Ray Illingworth's Ashes-winning Test side. His bowling was coming on and the Test in which he played he had one of the best catches at slip I have ever seen. Having, when the winter started, been keeping goal for Guildford, he was in good diving form.

He was, on that tour, irreverently amusing at the Christmas party given by the press to the England team. In 1971 he was to leave Surrey, when they were slow to give him

a county cap, for Warwickshire, a gamble at the time but one that has paid him handsomely. Willis's forthright personality and strong views were reflected in the attack he made yesterday. (On BBC television) on those cricketers who specialise in small-minded games. He is a close friend and admirer of Brearley's, and, of course, of Botham's. He was, however, fined recently by the Test and County Cricket Board for saying publicly that he thought the England captaincy was undermining Botham's

cricket. Willis has now taken 214 wickets in 60 Test matches. Among Test cricketers only Trueman and Underwood, Statham and Bedser have taken more. Yesterday's heroic achievement comes in his benefit year, less than four months after having a floating piece of cartilage removed from his left knee. Today he will be bowling again, for Warwickshire, against Glamorgan at Edgbaston. At 33 his comeback is as remarkable as England's.



The last act: Willis bowls to seal Australia's fate.

Leicestershire v Kent

Kent (120.2) beat Leicestershire (71.1) by 49 runs.

Leicestershire: First Innings 71.1 (1st Test). Second Innings 111 (2nd Test).

Kent: First Innings 120.2 (1st Test). Second Innings 120.2 (2nd Test).

Leicestershire: First Innings 71.1 (1st Test). Second Innings 111 (2nd Test).

Kent: First Innings 120.2 (1st Test). Second Innings 120.2 (2nd Test).

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Leicestershire: First Innings 71.1 (1st Test). Second Innings 111 (2nd Test).

Somerset v Derbyshire

Somerset (141.1) drew with Derbyshire (141.1).

Somerset: First Innings 141.1 (1st Test). Second Innings 141.1 (2nd Test).

Derbyshire: First Innings 141.1 (1st Test). Second Innings 141.1 (2nd Test).

Somerset: First Innings 141.1 (1st Test). Second Innings 141.1 (2nd Test).

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Hove players do their best to vie with Headingley

By Richard Streeton

HOVE: Sussex (22pts) beat Warwickshire (16) by five wickets.

Sussex: First Innings 22pts (1st Test). Second Innings 22pts (2nd Test).

Warwickshire: First Innings 16 (1st Test). Second Innings 16 (2nd Test).

Sussex: First Innings 22pts (1st Test). Second Innings 22pts (2nd Test).

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Target proves beyond Hampshire

By Alan Gibson

PORTSMOUTH: Surrey (22pts) beat Hampshire (5) by 180 runs.

Surrey: First Innings 22pts (1st Test). Second Innings 22pts (2nd Test).

Hampshire: First Innings 5 (1st Test). Second Innings 5 (2nd Test).

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Hampshire: First Innings 5 (1st Test). Second Innings 5 (2nd Test).

Hemmings turns the tide Nottinghamshire's way

By Keith Macklin

NOTTINGHAM: Nottinghamshire (24pts) beat Yorkshire (4) by eight wickets.

Nottinghamshire: First Innings 24pts (1st Test). Second Innings 24pts (2nd Test).

Yorkshire: First Innings 4 (1st Test). Second Innings 4 (2nd Test).

Nottinghamshire: First Innings 24pts (1st Test). Second Innings 24pts (2nd Test).

Bloodstock sales

Brook Stud changes hands after 47 years

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

In what is believed to be the biggest deal of its type the Brook Stud at Cheveley, near Newmarket, has just changed hands for the first time since 1934. The package includes all the bloodstock, many of which trace back to some of the most successful and influential families in the stud books.

Sir Kenneth Butt has sold his shares in the controlling company for an undisclosed sum to David Harris, who has had horses in training with Gavin Hastings for the past five years and has shares in eight horses there.

Laid out on 200 acres the stud has 88 loose boxes in three main yards including stallions and foals. It was founded by Sir John Paine in 1934, and in 1946, and Petition, who won the Glencracker Stakes that year and the Eclipse Stakes two years later, were among the best horses bred there just after the war.

Petition was the resident stallion until his death at the age of 26. He was the champion sire in 1939 and the leading sire of two-year-olds in 1963. In addition to being the sire of that outstanding filly, Pettie Etrole, he is an influential factor in modern pedigrees because he is the grandsire of Troy and the great-grandfather of Brigadier Gerard and El-Mansour.

More recently, the important winners bred on the Brook Stud include Magee, Toot, Roca, Roca Dubarry, Jacinth, Shebeen and Haneena.

Christopher Stephenson, who acted for Sir Kenneth and negotiated the deal, specializes in the purchase and sale of stud farms worldwide. He is the managing director of the Brook Stud, which is renowned for its quality of breeding stock.

While the Keeneland Yearling Sale continues space on the outside of Lexington in the heart of Kentucky, Goff has been quick to draw attention to the sale of his Select Invitational Sale, which will be held this year two days after the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe on October 6 and 7.

In co-located, the catalogue will comprise just 57 choice lots—the same number as that enormously successful inaugural sale last year when the overall average was 68,760 Irish guineas.

Yesterday, his managing-director, Jonathan Twiss, announced that as his sale will be conducted in Irish guineas those banking with sterling will be at a considerable advantage because

the exchange rate, favours the pound to the tune of nearly 25 per cent.

Mr. Twiss added that the recent outcome of the Irish Oaks was a source of satisfaction because Goffs sold the first four when they were yearlings.

This year's catalogue looks strong and notable for the fact that eight of the lots are by stallions currently standing in the United States. The colt by Lyphard out of 1,000 Guineas winner, Mrs. McCarty and the colt by the Kentucky Derby winner, Cannonade and out of a mare closely related to Alleged are two of particular interest.

Half-brothers to the Irish 2,000 Guineas winner Nikolai, a half-brother to this year's French Derby winner, Bikala, a brother to that high-class filly, Kiljaro and an own sister to the Irish 2,000 Guineas winner, Northern Treasure, are other lots certain to arouse more than just a ripple in the market.

Meanwhile, it was announced yesterday that the Levy Board are increasing their allowances for steepchangers, including hunters, travelling more than 100 miles. The scheme for the coming September, which involves £107,000 and this represents an estimated increase of nearly 30 per cent on the amount distributed to owners last season.

The increased payments take into account the rise in transport costs during the past 12 months and reflect the board's continuing policy of encouraging the ownership of steepchangers. Bob Champion's achievement in winning the Grand National last year after having been so ill with cancer was without doubt one of the greatest in the history of the sport.

Appropriately, the Football Federation agreed that owners' subscriptions to the sweepstakes for this race will go to Cancer Research.

Finally, the Waterford Candelabra Stakes for two-year-old fillies has been upgraded to Group 3 status and will carry £14,000 added this year.

Last August the race was top-class. The winner for Fairy Footprints, who won the 1,000 Guineas, while the runner-up, Madame Gay, subsequently finished second in the Oaks before winning the French equivalent.



Brigadier Gerard, great grandson of the Brook Stud's champion sire, Petition.

Sangster pays £3.5m for yearling

From a Special Correspondent
Lexington, July 21

Yearling prices took another great leap upwards last night, when a syndicate headed by Robert Sangster paid £3.5m (£1,871,600) for a son of Northern Dancer, on the first day of the Keeneland Sales. This was more than twice the previous record of \$1.7m established here 12 months ago.

Minutes later the Aston Uphorpe stud, which had been the underbidders for the record colt, spent \$3.5m for another son of the 20-year-old Northern Dancer. The first million-dollar yearling, Canadian Sound, created a similar sensation at Keeneland five years ago. That half-brother to Dakota was knocked down for \$1.5m.

The new record holder is a full brother to Storm Bird, who won five races in the Sangster colours last year and headed the Top European Free Handicap. Unfortunately he has not seen a racecourse yet this season. Their dam is the 1970 Canadian Oaks winner, by 11 lengths and of 12 other foals all won stakes events.

They include Northern Dancer, winner of the 1977 Canadian stakes by 10 of them being sold for a total of \$10,680,000 (£5,711,230). Mr. Sangster, who was bidding, as he usually does, through the medium of the B.B.A. (Ireland), was at the rear of the sales ring while the record lot was being sold, a favourite play of his, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Assad Al

Maktoum, who owns the Aston Uphorpe stud, was not identified by the press. He was eventually his opponent.

Sheikh Mohammed, who has horses with John Dunlop, Frank Durr and Fulke Johnson Houghton, was the successful bidder for the first foal of Sweet Alliance, a daughter of Sir Ivor who won the Kentucky Oaks four years ago. He outbids Will Niarchos, for whom he bought eight other lots at between \$250,000 and \$600,000. In all he spent \$6.25 (£3,342,250).

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Rugby Union Springboks hope to find riches in Poverty

From David Elias
Glasgow, July 21

The South Africans return to the international rugby scene today as an unknown quantity against Poverty Bay, an unwarmed East Coast team, isolated from international competition means that nobody knows how well they will fare.

They will be playing on an unusually muddy pitch after only two practices under miserable wet conditions. The forwards are big, heavy and strong and the ball handling of the backs was impressive during a period of tough rugby today. There were no cancellations of the players, which includes three internationals.

During the first two games this week of the party of 30 will play once and it was a popular decision locally among the large Maori population to include tomorrow the first coloured Springbok, Errol Tobias, who has already displayed his talent as a ball handler.

In South Africa Tobias has been practising for the muddy New Zealand conditions by watering his back garden but no one was prepared for the quagmire they face tomorrow. But there will be no cancellations of the players, which includes three internationals.

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Yachting Kilroy is the man to follow in Maxis

By John Nicholls

For the second day in succession the boats that took line honours also won the handicap in the Seaboard Maxi series at Cowes yesterday. Jim Kilroy's Kialoa, whose home "port" is Wilmington, Delaware, led from start to finish and was one and a half minutes ahead of the Spanish yacht, Xargo IV (F. Siges), at the end of a long and somewhat processional race.

As so often happens in the Solent the tide was responsible for both slowing down and stringing out the 11 starters, and the last to finish was three-quarters of an hour after the first. Since Xargo is the scratch boat the fleet, she clearly could not beat Kialoa on corrected time and the minutes passed before the arrival of the next boat, Condor (Robert Thell), it became less likely that any other entry could better Kialoa's time.

The pattern of the race was set soon after the start, when the fleet divided into two groups. The majority, led by Kialoa, chose to beat to the westward against a foul tide on the mainland shore of the Solent. Xargo, Condor and Glana VI (Baron Edmund de Rothschild) headed for the island shore, but it was soon apparent that they had made the wrong decision.

Xargo and Condor decided to cut their losses and crossed back over the tide, but Glana did not follow suit until she had to cross over for the first mark, where

everyone came together for the first time. After a second crossing of the tide to a turning mark, Yarmouth, the order was Kialoa, Xargo, Flyer (Cornelius van Rietschoten), Mistress Quicks (Robert Thell), and Condor. The first two boats had pulled away from the others and the following long-downwind leg helped them even more.

Condor began to make some progress through the boats ahead of her and at the end of the round she was lying fourth. Then the fresh breeze died away and the tide, now ebbing, hit the west, again played a part in separating the boats. Condor gained another place on the second round, but there was no catching Kialoa and Xargo.

For the third day in succession in the European championship of the International Etchells class on the Forth a different yacht led the fleet. Yesterday it was the turn of Kialoa, led by Kialoa, whose choice of the northern side of the course paid off handsomely in the westerly breeze on the beat to Inchmickery. He is a former champion sailor who won a race with Isis in an etchells class cup in Britain, which was also sailed on the Forth.

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man to
his
The spiral of
interest
rates, page 21

Business News

THE TIMES July 22 1981

Pressures on
Belgium's
economy, page 21

500,000 Britons did no work last year

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

The number of people in Britain who have not worked for more than a year has now reached 500,000 and is expected to rise even more sharply during the next 12 months, according to the annual report of the Manpower Services Commission published today.

Long-term unemployment increased dramatically over the last year and the commission has predicted that, if total unemployment excluding school leavers rises to 2.8 million by 1983, as some forecasters suggest, long-term unemployed would account for 940,000 of the total—equivalent to one in three of all unemployed.

In an attempt to provide a better service for the long-term unemployed, the commission earlier this year introduced the community enterprise programme, which replaced the special temporary employment programme, and is designed to provide work of benefit to the community as a whole.

The new programme, introduced in April, is designed for only 25,000 places a year. The commission is hoping that, if successful, it will be able to approach the Government for further funds for expansion.

Sir Richard O'Brien, commission chairman, says in his introduction to the report that staffing and spending cuts demanded by the Government meant that the "commission was unable to meet the needs of the labour market in its employment and training services as it would have wished".

"During the past year, the commission shed 10 per cent of its staffing—equivalent to 1,400 jobs in the employment service—and its total expenditure in the year ending March was £876m. The commission has asked Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, for further £93m for the current year to increase the number of places available on the youth opportunities programme by 100,000 to 550,000.

The minister has not yet taken a decision, but in view of recent statements by Mr Prior on the need to provide all school leavers with permanent employment or job training, the commission is hoping that the extra funding will be sanctioned soon.

Unemployment last year would have been 350,000 higher but for the commission's special employment programmes. The report summarizes the past 12 months as a period of high and rising unemployment "particularly severe among the young, school leavers and members of the ethnic minority groups."

"The year to come is expected to bring further increases in unemployment, although not the very high rates of increase seen towards the end of 1980", the report says.

During the year, jobcentres and employment offices filled more than 1.5 million vacancies, and the youth opportunities programme provided a record 360,000 places at a cost of £215m.

The commission's undertaking to offer a youth opportunities place by the end of every unemployed 1980 school leaver was substantially met, the report says. By Easter, only 5,300 school leavers had yet to be offered a place, the majority in London and the Midlands, providing "a striking indication of the speed with which the recession hit previously prosperous areas".

Fed's grip will keep US loan rate high

From Frank Vogt, Washington, July 21

Monetary policy in the United States will remain tight for the rest of this year and the Federal Reserve Board has decided on an even slower rate of money supply growth for 1982.

The Fed's decision, which ensures high interest rates for some time to come, has been made despite mounting congressional resistance to high rates and strong criticism by foreign leaders at the Ottawa summit.

Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Fed, said in a mid-year report on policy to Congress today that further slowing in money supply growth is essential to curb inflation and to build confidence in the prospect of sustained inflation levels. He said interest rates will not fall until there are greater expectations of price stability. "We are at a critical point in the fight on inflation," he said.

The central bank chief announced that, from the start of next year, the narrow measure of the money supply, known as M1, will simply be the sum of currency plus demand deposits, is set to

increase in 1982 by between 2.5 and 5.5 per cent, which compares with a 1981 growth range of 3.5 to 6 per cent.

The broader measures of the money supply, M2 and M3, are set to increase in 1982 by 6 to 9 per cent and 6.5 to 9.5 per cent respectively. Mr Volcker stressed that this year it is likely that growth will be at the top end of these ranges while the Fed will aim next year for the lower end of these ranges and so bring about a real slowing of money supply.

The move to even greater restraint of money supply may well ensure sluggish economic growth in the year ahead. The Fed's report said that the near-term outlook is for a flat economy. Growth of real gross national product from the final quarter of this year to the final quarter of 1982 is predicted by the Fed's key policy committee to be between 1 and 4 per cent, compared with a White House forecast of 5.2 per cent.

A big worry on Wall Street is that the planned congressional tax cuts will have a stimulating and inflationary effect on the economy in the near future. The Fed's report stated that "the impact of the proposed tax cuts would affect private markets in the second half of 1982".

The policy committee forecast inflation, on the basis of the gap deflator, at 6.5 to 8.5 per cent for 1982 and predicted final quarterly 1982 unemployment at between 7 and 8.5 per cent.

Mr Volcker warned today that there simply cannot be long-term improvements in employment and real growth unless inflation is cut.

Volcker: 'Critical point'

Bank gives support as pound falls below \$1.84

By John Whitmore

The firm line taken by the Federal Reserve Board, together with increased dollar interest rates, led to a further sharp rise in the dollar, pushing sterling to its lowest level this year.

In London, the pound closed 2.2 cents lower at \$1.8455 after a low of \$1.8375. Dealers report that the pound is being supported by the Bank of England in support of sterling.

Domestic interest rates continued under upward pressure, particularly money market rates between one month and one year. These were often 1 per cent or more higher. Three month interbank rate, for example, traded at around 14 1/4 per cent during the afternoon.

But the Bank of England kept the pressure off ultra-short rates, supplying funds to the discount market at 12 1/2 per cent.

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EUROCURRENCY INTEREST RATES

	1 week	1 month	3 months
Deutschmark	11 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Guilider	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Sw Franc	21	22 1/2	22 1/2
Yen	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2
Dollar	19	19 1/2	19 1/2
Sterling	13	14 1/2	14 1/2

Cold winter could mean cuts in gas supplies

By Edward Townsend

British Gas has given a warning that if there is a prolonged period of very cold weather this winter, gas supplies to industry might be threatened.

Problems could arise because of continuing delays in bringing into operation the huge Brent Field in the North Sea, Britain's largest oil and gas discovery.

Mr Jack Smith, deputy chairman of British Gas, said yesterday that Brent gas should have been delivered in 1979-80, but latest information suggested it would not be landed until October 1982 and then only in modified contract quantities.

By now, the corporation had been expecting to receive 550 million to 600 million cu ft of Brent gas a day, representing about 10 per cent of an average day's demand.

Because of the delays there would be supply difficulties this winter, he said, but these would depend on the severity of the weather. Big problems would occur if the winter was as bad as that of 1962-63.

The corporation's criterion in ensuring continuous gas supplies is to budget for conditions as extreme as occur once in 50 years. Such conditions last occurred in the 1880s, when the Thames froze over in central London.

Mr Smith said that without Brent gas, the corporation could meet only the demand to be expected once in 15 or 20 years.

Should British Gas be forced to make cuts, industrial customers for so-called interruptible supplies would be first in the line. Domestic consumers would not be affected.

Brent gas was due to be flowing through a new pipeline system to St Fergus in Scotland, but the operation has been delayed by various technical difficulties.

Rooke denounces 'malicious attacks'

By Bill Johnston

A Japanese-British venture has been agreed between Marconi and Mitsubishi for the design and installation in Hongkong of two earth stations for satellite communications.

The contract, worth about £5m, was awarded by the British state-owned telecommunications company Cable and Wireless. A number of contracts for civil engineering work and other construction have yet to be awarded.

The stations, to be designed on the basis of technical exchange between the two companies, will be built on the Stanley Peninsula and will be operational by November next year.

At present there are two earth stations on the peninsula. One of the new ones will replace a station built more than 12 years ago. The second will cater for the extra load on Hongkong telecommunications which has been built up in recent years.

The joint venture is an example of the technological exchange which the Department of Industry is keen to promote. Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Industry and Information Technology, led a visit to Japan in April.

Gas beats target, page 20

Chairman details plans for meeting competition PO chief predicts profit

By Bill Johnston



Riding into battle: Mr Dearing tries out courier Stephen Selby's Expresspost motorcycle.

The Post Office will show a profit for the last financial year, Mr Ron Dearing, chairman of Post and Giro, has predicted confidently.

However, the profits, to be published at the end of August, are expected to fall far short of the company's target of £40m.

The corporation returned a £30m loss for the first six months of the last financial year although the National Giro had a profit of £3m. At the time the losses were made public, the Post Office executives predicted profit by the year end.

The Post Office yesterday disclosed some of its plans for competing with the private sector after the British Telecommunications Bill is given Royal Assent this Friday. The Bill abolishes the Post Office's monopoly in the delivery of letters.

A "Super Service" will be launched as a trial this autumn in the West Midlands. The service will accept customers' orders by telephone for overnight or same day delivery.

The trial will cover Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton and the surrounding areas, including the counties of the West Midlands and Warwickshire.

The staff taking orders at the telephone centre will have visual display units linked to a computer that will allow them quickly to answer inquiries, accept orders and quote prices.

The new service will combine the facilities of Expresspost and Datapost. Expresspost offers same day delivery and Datapost the collection and delivery overnight of "urgent merchandise".

The Post Office clearly is concerned about the effects that competition may have on its income. "Our answer is direct and clear," Mr Dearing says. "We compete."

Japanese buy back British scrap

By Peter Hill

Japanese steel mills are rapidly becoming big customers of Britain's motor trade, buying increasing volumes of scrapped cars—some of them imported from Japan—to feed into the capacious jaws of Japan's steel furnaces.

Leaders of the industrialized world, meeting at their summit session in Ottawa, will have devoted some of their discussions to the problems caused by Japan's growing trade surplus with Europe. But at a more prosaic level, Britain's scrap processors are doing something to redress the present trade imbalance.

The United Kingdom scrap industry, like many others, is in the depths of recession. The volume of scrap from engineering works and other steel-consuming industries is down; prices are weak; and demand from the steelmakers in Britain and Europe is substantially lower.

Scrap processors are operating their plants at well below capacity. But the processors, ever alive to possibilities elsewhere, have turned increasingly to export markets. Further afield than those with which they have traditionally been associated, demand for British scrap is reported to be particularly strong from India, the Middle East and the Far East, with Japan's steel mills particularly important customers.

Companies such as the Thos. Ward Group and the Bird Group of Stratford-upon-Avon are among those which have carved out a niche in the Far East market.

Over the next few weeks, the Bird Group will be shipping more than 15,000 tonnes of shredded motor car scrap to the Far East, principally to Japan, through the South Wales port of Barry.

Marconi in £5m joint satellite deal

By Bill Johnston

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Gas beats target, page 20

Miners 'trying to relive past'

By Nicholas Cole

Public investment of nearly £3,000m in the coal industry since 1974 must now yield its promised results, Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, told the all-party miners' group of MPs in the House of Commons yesterday.

Mr Howell said: "The extra support for the industry of £230m which I announced on June 16 takes account of all the industry's financial needs, including both the specific commitments made to the industry and the cost imposed by the wider economic difficulties."

He made no specific reference to the recent vote by the National Union of Mineworkers to back a demand for a minimum rate of £100 a week on a salaried basis, which would give face-workers £10,000 a year.

But he said there had been "fighting talk" from some miners in recent days and continued: "But who are they fighting? Not the Government, as some of them seem to believe, but first of all themselves, and secondly their customers. They are trying to relive the past instead of preparing for their future."

"That future could be very bright, but it requires the industry to be willing to adapt and change... it must win new markets in competition with other fuels. The miners can best secure their own living standards and job security by recognizing this."

"Since 1974, the taxpayer has invested nearly £3,000m in the coal industry to secure this possibility. That massive investment must now yield its promised results. The miners owe it to the nation and themselves to give the nation coal at prices it can afford to pay."

He gave warning of the extremely tight financial framework for the industry, and said that the year's events had not altered the industry's basic problems: too much coal at too much cost.

Mr Howell reminded the MPs that stocks had risen alarmingly and now stood at more than 22 million tonnes. "The industry is held back by its tail of uneconomic capacity, and its productivity has only recently got back to its level of six years ago," he said.

"If the problems remain, so too does the urgent need to overcome them and create a competitive industry. Seventy-eight per cent of electricity in this country is generated from coal. British industry must be able to pay for that electricity, and the coal itself, without being forced to cut jobs or go bankrupt."

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Attack on US 'monopoly' merger mania

From Frank Vogt, Washington, July 21

The fear for Congressmen is that thousands of small businesses may be denied loans because banks have committed vast sums to the big oil companies.

Congressman St Germain said the bids on Wall Street today are like Monopoly and he suggested that the "urge to merge" is having a damaging effect on the economy. He speculated that a major reason for the merger activity is the Reagan Administration's attitude of "benign neglect" on the anti-trust front.

Meanwhile, there was widespread Wall Street speculation that Gulf Oil may call on its new \$6,000m credit line in a bid for the Cities Service Company of Oklahoma, the company that several weeks ago was engaged in merger talks with Conoco, Texas, with \$5,500m of credit lines, is also seen as interested in Cities Service.

One of America's most influential Congressmen yesterday attacked the growing spread of giant takeover bids in the United States. Congressman St Germain, chairman of the House of Representatives Banking Committee, told a hearing today that a handful of oil companies had arranged credit lines totalling \$40,000m (£21,500m) in the last fortnight.

He asked: "Is our Government becoming a Government run by and for big business? Are corporations taking over the Government and the economy at the same time?"

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Informed sources stated that Seagram of Canada approached Mobil Oil recently with the suggestion of joining forces to bid for Conoco. Mobil decided to bid on its own and Conoco is now suing Mobil.

Stock markets

FT Index 512.2 down 1.8
FT Ciltex 63.13 down 0.01
Dow Jones industrial average 934.46 down 6.08

Sterling

\$1.8455 down 220 points
Index 91.7 down 0.6
New York: \$1.8530

Dollar

Index 111.9 up 0.8
DM 2.4690 up 245 pts

Gold

\$407.00 down \$5
New York: \$410.50

Money

3 mth sterling 14 1/4-14 1/2
3 mth Euro 5 19 1/4-18 1/4
6 mth Euro 5 18 1/4-18 1/2

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Churchbury Est	5p to 720p
Com Union	4p to 136p
Fisons	4p to 330p
General Ace	4p to 721p
GEC	5p to 114p
Hagg Robinson	8p to 562p
Leama	4p to 370p
RIT	12p to 525p
Rio Tinto Zinc	13p to 700p
Royal Ind	2p to 22p
Secombe Mars	5p to 250p

Falls

Aero Needles	4p to 18p
Atlantic Res	10p to 190p
Berkley Exp	10p to 385p
Electrocomp	15p to 780p
Hanson Trst	11p to 260p
Killinghall	13p to 743p
Kinross	16p to 605p
Middle Wits	13p to 700p
Peko Walsend	15p to 435p
Soldiers Law	2p to 22p
Standard Tele	17p to 447p

Action possible against auditors

The liquidator of Hedderwick

Scotling Crumbar is considering legal action against the stock-broking firm's auditors, Ernst & Whinney. Ernst & Whinney carried out an interim audit at Hedderwick during the broking firm's last year, and was assisting in the firm's liquidation.

A review of Hedderwick prior to a proposed merger with Quilter Hilton Goodson when Hedderwick was found to be insolvent and was liquidated.

Mr Ernest & Whinney said the firm was unaware of any likely legal action but was confident of its ability to defend itself if accused of negligence over its procedures at Hedderwick.

Japan setback for airbus

TOA, the Japanese domestic

airline, is to postpone the purchase of two A300 European airbuses and will negotiate the cancellation of three other airliners of this type because of stagnant business prospects.

Northern Engineering has bought another 687,000 shares in Amalgamated Power Engineering, taking its stake to 15.8 per cent. Amalgamated Power has received a £25.6m bid from Northern.

TODAY

TUC General Council meeting. Parliamentary select committee: Industry and trade committee to hear evidence on the Government's reply to its export import report. Energy committee on North Sea oil depletion policy. Company results: Arlington Motors (finals), Hampson Industries (finals).

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Electricity price rise warning in power plan

A warning of increases in electricity prices and the need to pursue alternative energy sources to replace oil and gas, including the development of wind power, are among significant features of the Electricity Council's medium-term development plan for 1981 to 1988.

The decline in short-term economic prospects has led to load estimates being substantially reduced from last year's seven-year plan, creating plant surplus, and adding to cost. Twenty-two power stations will have been closed over the year from October 1980 to October 1981.

More nuclear stations must be commissioned and new orders placed.

Hanson Trust rights issue

Hanson Trust, the industrial holding company, which recently built up a 14.9 per cent stake in the Ever Ready battery group Beret, is to raise £42.7m, at 15p a share, with a rights issue.

Shareholders are being offered £2 nominal of 9.75 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock for every five ordinary shares held. Rights are also being offered to holders of the 6.5 per cent convertible loan stock. Hanson's shares slipped 11p to 266p yesterday.

Financial Editor, page 21

Lloyd's group reelects chief

Lloyd's External Names Association re-elected Lady Janet Middleton as their chairman yesterday and pledged to lobby MPs on two issues in the after elections group's Bill still causing problems.

They will seek agreement that members of the new Lloyd's Council will be elected by the general body of names and that there should be no immunity from legal action.

The Bill so divided the Association—formed last December—that at one time Lady Middleton was fighting alone.

New directors for British Shipbuilders

Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, yesterday announced the appointment of two new part-time directors of British Shipbuilders and the re-appointment of Mr John Steele, chairman of Swan Hunter and Cammell Laird Shipbuilders, as a part-time director for a further three years.

Mr Tom Crispin, national officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, is to join the board for a two-year term, replacing Mr John Chalmers, of the Boilermakers Society, whose appointment expires at the end of this month. He is being joined on the board by Mr Roy Forster, former British Trade Commissioner who is now a consultant with a number of oil and gas companies.

RIT Limited

	1981	1980	Change %	Change %
	£'000	£'000	1 year	5 years
Net Assets — pre-conversion	122,582	99,404	23	276
Net Assets — post-conversion	124,811	106,409	17	120
Net Asset Value per 50p Ordinary Share				
— pre-conversion	469p	405p	15	173
— post-conversion	463p	396p	17	142
Years to 31st March	1981	1980	Change %	Change %
			1 year	5 years
Profit before Taxation	£9,109,000	£7,601,000	20	181
Earnings per 50p Ordinary Share				
— pre-conversion	22.4p	18.9p	18	187
— post-conversion	22.1p	18.4p	20	191
Dividends per 50p Ordinary Share	13.5p	11.5p	17	181
Unaudited net asset value per 50p Ordinary Share as at 15th July 1981				
— pre-conversion				493p
— post-conversion				488p
— post-conversion, with prior charges deducted at market value				499p

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Queens Moat in hotel sale

Queens Moat Houses has sold for £1.9m cash a 66 bedroom hotel and bought the Elstree Moat Houses freehold for £386,000.

The Elstree Moat Houses, a 60 bedroom unit has been operated by the group since 1977. In that time the group has extended and improved the hotels facilities and enhanced profitability. The hotel has been valued at £1.5m.

Chesham completes fewer mergers

Chesham Amalgamations & Investments, the licensed dealers, completed eight transactions in the first half compared with 12 in the same period in 1980. The value also fell well below the average of about £1m achieved in the interim period last year.

Mr Nicholas Stacey, chairman, said that the number of mergers this year appeared to be well down overall in the United Kingdom because of the recession. Vendors are waiting until a profits recovery to sell.

Rediffusion TV advances by £3m

Rediffusion Television's profits for the year to March 31 have climbed from £2.5m to £5.9m on turnover up from £23m to £36m. The dividend of this BET Omnibus subsidiary is increased from 38p gross to 88p gross.

Aero Needles slumps to £187,000 loss

Aero Needles Group has seen a profit of £294,000 turn to a loss of £187,000 in the year to December 31 and the board warns shareholders that the company will incur a loss in the first half of this year. No dividend is being paid compared with an interim for the whole of 1979 of 2.2p gross.

Turnover has risen from £7.7m to £8.3m but the loss per share was 4.2p compared with earnings of 5.6p. The board says it is impossible to forecast the year-end results.

ERF expects long wait for better trading

In his annual review, Mr E. P. Foden, chairman of ERF Holdings, states that it is obvious that a return to reasonable trading conditions in the United Kingdom is some time away, and it is felt that the company's present capacity is sufficient to meet the demand for the foreseeable future. However, in the longer term it may have to reconsider its expansion plans.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Monthly figures for unemployment in the United Kingdom published by the Department of Employment yesterday.			
	Adults	% of population	% of labour force
1980	1,503	6.7	1.897
Jan	1,503	6.7	1.897
Feb	1,497	7.0	2.001
Mar	1,497	7.0	2.001
Apr	1,497	7.0	2.001
May	1,497	7.0	2.001
Jun	1,497	7.0	2.001
Jul	1,497	7.0	2.001
Aug	1,497	7.0	2.001
Sep	1,497	7.0	2.001
Oct	1,497	7.0	2.001
Nov	1,497	7.0	2.001
Dec	1,497	7.0	2.001
1981	1,497	7.0	2.001
Jan	1,497	7.0	2.001
Feb	1,497	7.0	2.001
Mar	1,497	7.0	2.001
Apr	1,497	7.0	2.001
May	1,497	7.0	2.001
Jun	1,497	7.0	2.001
Jul	1,497	7.0	2.001

Property snag ends Maxwell bid for Oyez Press

Mr Robert Maxwell's £2m takeover of Oyez Press Ltd—part of Solicitors' Law Stationery Society—is off. BPC, where Mr Maxwell is chief executive, and Solicitors' Law, said yesterday that discussions had been terminated by mutual agreement.

Problems arose over the professional valuation of the assets of Oyez's Bermondsey printing works in South East London which represented a major part of the £2m purchase price.

Solicitors' Law managing director, Mr John Swinborough said last night: "I'm not prepared to tell you what the differences were in price between our professional advisors and theirs. Discussions were terminated by telephone at 4 pm yesterday afternoon."

The potential deal had emerged after Mr Maxwell approached Solicitors' Law to explore where the two groups could cooperate.

Mr Swinborough said Mr Maxwell closed the London printing operation of BPC's subsidiary Waterlow & Sons and was interested in buying Oyez Press to handle the work. Both printing concerns handle security printing documents such as prospectuses, rights issue papers and Oyez also publishes the Parliamentary record.

Swanborough said: "We found an unbridgeable gap. But we would like to tender for any work which BPC's Waterlow puts out. No other areas of co-operation were agreed. The termination of talks was entirely amicable."

For Solicitors' Law, which is controlled by the Thomson Organisation, the £2m would have gone to reduce group borrowings. Last April, when the group reported a pre-tax loss of £1.17m for 1980, the balance sheet showed a gearing level of almost 100 per cent.

Carpets Int in US sale

Carpets International, Britain's largest carpet manufacturer, is selling 10 per cent of its stake to two partly owned American companies for \$3.25m (about £1.75m).

It is selling the holding in the 40 per cent owned carpet tiles companies to its United States partners, a group of individual investors, who joined the businesses when they were set up in 1973.

The new corporation will be called Interface Flooring Systems, will continue to market and manufacture carpet tiles, and Carpets will retain a 40 per cent holding in it.

The shares gained 2p to a new high of 27 1/2p after the announcement. Last year Carpets' pre-tax loss was £6.4m and the dividends were passed.

Stock markets Late technical rally

After opening easier following the overnight setback on Wall Street, most sections of the market staged a technical rally after hours yesterday, with electrical leading the way.

Conditions were again described as thin, with jobbers on the defensive as small amounts of nervous selling persisted. Sentiment remained drab with the continuing fluctuations in the sterling applying increased pressure to a rise in domestic interest rates, while the general economic outlook offered little in the way of comfort.

The latest unemployment figures showed a further increase in 171,000 jobless and confirmed fears of 3m unemployed before long.

The FT Index closed 1.8 lower at 512.2 after being 5.6 down at 2 pm.

Two plus signs were seen dotted about. ICI improved 2p to 262p along with Fisons 3p higher at 136p. But falls were seen in Glaxo 2p to 364p, Unilever 5p to 555p, Blue Circle 6p to 456p.

Bowater 4p to 252p, Grand Metropolitan 4p to 200p, Hawker Siddeley 6p to 312p, Lucas Industries 3p to 188p, Tate & Lyle 2p to 158p and Turner & Newall 3p to 79p.

British Aerospace recovered 3p to close unchanged at 223p after being awarded the contract to build two space communications satellites. The rest of the electrical sector quickly responded and with stock shortages helping, out many of the leaders closed with gains on the day. GEC rose 5p to 721p, Plessey 4p to 331p and Telephone Rentals 10p to 378p.

Banks were again a weak market after suggestions that Midland Bank was preparing for a rights issue to coincide with its interim figures on Friday week. But despite a decline in the price of the equity, the price fell 5p to 328p along with National Westminster at 310p and Barclays at 438p. Lloyds which unveiled figures only last week, also gave ground losing 10p to 388p. Profit taking was also responsible for a 5p fall in the old takeover favourite Grindlays Holdings at 218p.

Further worries about interest rates provided another dull day for discount houses with Union Discount 45p lower at 443p, Alexanders Discount 5p at 249p, and Gerrard & National 2p at 261p.

The insurance composites made new headway with more talk of a dawn rally on Commercial Union, up 4p at 180p. Others to gain ground included Royal Insurance 5p to 363p, General Accident 4p to 330p and GRE 2p to 328p. Among the life groups Sun Life was friendless, losing 10p at 305p after increasing its stake in Fomento to 4.61 per cent. Bagg Robinson, on the other hand, rose 5p to 114p after annual figures above expectations.

Dowry slipped 4p to 277p after disappointing trading news but was partly supported by the free share-handout.

Trading losses were also responsible for a 4p off. Area Needles, at 158p, and 4p off Deansons Holdings at 232p. But RTI appeared pleased with its annual profits and the shares rose 4p to 370p.

Wm Collins was again depressed with the 'A' falling 5p to 143p after News International, down 3p at 113p, had allowed its £25m bid to lapse. Meanwhile, Law Land remained unchanged at 120p after revised terms from Churchbury Estates up 5p at 720p. Shares of Sangars also closed unchanged at 78p after news that Paget Agencies had acquired 15 per cent of the equity. Bramham Miller ended 4p lower at 20p after rejecting a full bid of 18p a share from Fieldwood, which currently holds 15 per cent of the shares. Solicitor's Law also ended 2p lower at 22p after calling off talks with BPC for the sale of one of its subsidiaries.

Recent newcomer to the market Aerospace Engineering encountered profit taking falling 4p to 158p as in oils Hamilton Oil opened with a discount of 8p on the offer price of 140p.

A line of over 11 million shares in Sears Holdings, the stores group, were placed yesterday at 54p having overhung the market for several days. The price eventually eased 3p to 54p.

Equity turnover on July 20, was £115,270m (11,832 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were National Westminster Bank, Ultramar Thomas Tilling, British Home Stores, Colson, Boots Dowry Law, Barclay's Bank, and Securities and Hogg Robinson.

Traded Options: Dealers reported a busier session, with a total of 1,963 contracts made, of which 107 were puts. Imperial Group came in for strong support with 942 calls made with Courtaulds attracting a further 194.

Traditional options saw calls in Town & City on 33p, NCC on 15p, Howard Hansen on 7p and Sangars on 81p.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	cents	date	total
Astra (F)	14.3(24.8)	0.7(0.4)	1.7(1.4)	0.8(0.5)	20/9	1.5(0.79)
RTI (F)	9.1(7.6)	0.1(0.1)	22.1(18.4)	10.5(9)	15/9	13.5(11.5)
Rediffusion (F)	36(23)	5.8(2.8)		62(26)	16/9	

*Incl 0.5p special payment.

Law Land bid terms revised

Churchbury Estates has revised its bid for Law Land after consultations with the Takeover Panel. The new offer, of one Churchbury share for six Law Land shares is worth 120p a share, against 110p a share in the original offer.

The revised offer was triggered yesterday when near 3 per cent block of Law Land shares was bought at 120.17p a share, and divided among by Royal Insurance, London Trust and the Kuwait Investment Office, which said to be acting in concert with Churchbury.

Some acceptances have already been received. Churchbury had 8.73 per cent of Law Land when the bid was launched, and four institutions including Royal Insurance were said to have 11.75 per cent between them.

Business appointments New man takes the chair

Mr John Hurst has been appointed chairman of British Hydrocarbons, a subsidiary of Thomas Whittier, which has been acquired by Tarmac's building products division. Mr Hurst has been managing director of Briggs Amasco by Mr Ian McPherson, formerly assistant managing director.

Mr Lewis Davis and Mr David Coffey, in the board of Trevian Properties.

Messrs R. S. Cohen, J. M. Kahn and S. Kermar have been elected to the board of the South African Breweries.

Mr Peter Kilfoyle, has been appointed manager of National Westminster Bank's New York branch.

Mr John Norhard, present director of the National Coal Board, North Derbyshire area is to be

director of the Western area. Mr Kenneth Munn, deputy director-general of mining and director of planning and major projects at the coal board's London headquarters, is to take over as director of the North Derbyshire area.

Mr Eugene J. Dickert has been appointed director of operations, Europe, Middle East and Africa for the company.

Mr Frank Cheshire has been appointed assistant managing director of Willett and its associated companies, Cemenation Building and Stannus Sons & Cooke (Northern).

Mr Donald Dudley has been appointed director for defence equipment sales of Westair.

Mr Brian Walker has been appointed to the board of the Herman Smith Group.

Subelectra group to get placing on USM

By Our Financial Staff

Subelectra, a video games maker, whose present management bought control five years ago, comes to the Stock Exchange's Unlisted Securities Market next week after a placing of 36 per cent of its shares with institutions and stockjobbers.

Tring Hall Securities is floating the group. Around 27 per cent of the 15 million issued shares have been placed with its own institutions at 55p a share. The market will get 1.3 million shares and a premium of between 5p and 7p is expected by Tring when

dealings start on July 30. After the placing, Mr Donald Tullock, aged 53, and his wife Georgina, who has been non-executive director since 1979 and company secretary for four and a half years, will control 65 per cent of the votes. Their holding is split between ordinary and deferred ordinary shares which means they will receive no dividend on the deferred shares until July 1982.

The group makes no profit forecast, but says it expects to pay a total gross dividend of 2.74p for the current year and a total of 5.5p for 1982.

Property activities boost Astra profit by 52pc

By Catherine Gunn

Astra International, the West Midlands engineering group, that is gradually changing into an industrial property company, boosted its pretax profits nearly 52 per cent to £714,000 in the year to April 4. Shareholders, who have already had a special distribution of 0.71p gross on the sale of the Zinc Alloy Rust-Proofing subsidiary last August, will receive a 39 per cent increase in the final payout, giving them 1.43p gross for the year, against 1.13p, excluding the extra distribution.

Property and investment profits last year rose from just £484,000 to £612,000, while engineering and metals fell from £718,000 to £323,000. More engineering activities will be sold as property earnings rise. Bank interest fell from £331,000 to £221,000 and should be lower still this year, since the group's term loan was repaid in the second half of last year.

Scrap processing made no contribution last year, but there are faint signs of improvement now.

Analysts said the market was still under a pressing fear signals that interest rates would remain high for the near term. Federal funds, a key interest rate, were trading at around 20 per cent, up 2 per cent from yesterday's close, and chemical bank raised its broker loan rate to 20 1/2 per cent from 19 1/2 per cent.

"Merger mania" continued to spark trading activity, particularly on continued speculation that Gulf Oil may make a takeover offer. Gulf dropped 1 1/2 to 35 1/2.

Declines led advances 1,187 to 983 and volume rose to 47-million shares from 40 million.

Wall Street New York, July 21—Stock prices closed lower, still buffeted by concerns over high interest rates. The Dow Jones industrial average closed 5.08 down at 934.46, putting the index close to a new low for the year.

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Discount market

The Bank of England gave help, on a scale to the house. Earlier in the day a moderate shortage of funds had seemed likely but a swing on Treasury bills in the afternoon effort to slow the decline. At one stage, the pound dropped as low as 31.8375, its worst level since December 1977. However, the pound rose to 31.85 and then to 31.86.

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Foreign exchange report

The dollar continued to make strong progress against all major currencies on the back of yet another round of interest rate cuts.

Sterling came under pressure, and the Bank of England was believed to have intervened several times in a bid to slow the decline. At one stage, the pound dropped as low as 31.8375, its worst level since December 1977. However, the pound rose to 31.85 and then to 31.86.

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Other Markets

technical reaction to a sterling improvement to \$1.8455 finally, a loss of 2.20 cents on balance. The dollar's exchange rate index closed 0.6 down at 91.7.

Continental currencies all showed further stable losses against the dollar at the end of the day. The D mark dipped from 2.4445 to 2.4690. Swiss francs fell from 2.0972 to 2.1142, and French francs weakened from 5.7500 to 5.8575.

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Wall Street New York, July 2

This document includes particulars given in compliance with the regulations of The Council of The Stock Exchange for the purpose of giving information with regard to Edinburgh General Insurance Services Limited ("the Company"). The Directors of the Company have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated herein are true and accurate in all material respects and that there are no material facts the omission of which would make misleading any statement herein whether of fact or of opinion. All the Directors accept responsibility accordingly.

On 2nd July, 1981 the Company entered into a conditional Agreement for the acquisition of the issued share capital of Andrew & Booth, Limited. This Agreement was approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company held on 21st July, 1981 and is now conditional only on the Council of The Stock Exchange admitting

the whole of the Company's share capital (both in issue and to be issued pursuant to the acquisition and to the rights issue described herein) to the Official List. This document has been prepared so far as possible on the basis that the Agreement will become unconditional and be completed on 24th July, 1981 and that the shares comprised in the rights issue have been subscribed in full.

These particulars are issued in connection with the placing of 6,233,333 shares pursuant to the acquisition. Shares are available to the public through the market. Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the share capital of the Company (both in issue and to be issued pursuant to the acquisition and to the rights issue) to be admitted to the Official List.

EDINBURGH GENERAL INSURANCE SERVICES LIMITED

(Incorporated in Scotland under the Companies Act 1948—No. 40699)



This document is published in connection with the acquisition of

ANDREW & BOOTH, LIMITED

SHARE CAPITAL

Authorised
£2,500,000

in 25,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 10p each

Issued and
fully paid
£2,177,683.90

INDEBTEDNESS

At the close of business on 16th June, 1981—

(a) the Existing Group had outstanding:

- (i) a loan of a principal amount of £100,000 repayable on 29th January, 1982 and secured by floating charges;
- (ii) commitments under hire-purchase and leasing agreements amounting in aggregate to £88,206;
- (iii) unsecured overdraft indebtedness of £19,290;
- (iv) contingent liabilities not exceeding £127,000 in aggregate in connection with undertakings related to the underwriting membership of Lloyd's of certain executives;

(b) the A&B Group had outstanding a loan of a principal amount of £350,000, repayable in January, 1984 and secured by first legal charges over various freehold and long leasehold properties.

Save as aforesaid and apart from intra-Group liabilities, no company in the Enlarged Group had outstanding on that date any loan capital (whether issued or created but unissued), mortgages, charges, debentures or other borrowing or indebtedness in the nature of borrowing, including bank overdrafts and liabilities under acceptance credits, hire-purchase commitments or guarantees (other than the guarantees in the ordinary course of business) or other material contingent liabilities.

DIRECTORS AND ADVISERS

Directors

DANE PETER DOUETIL
(Chairman and Chief Executive)
Busbridge Lakes House, Godalming, Surrey GU8 4AY.

EDWARD WILLINGHAM COOK (USA)
855 Ridge Lake Boulevard, Memphis, Tennessee 38117, USA.

JAMES WILLIAM CRYSTAL (USA)
33 East 70th Street, New York 10021, USA.

PETER BERNARD MEARA
38 Eaton Terrace, London SW1W 8TS

EUGENE PATRY (Switzerland)
11 bis Rue Toepffer, 1206 Geneva, Switzerland.

ALISTAIR JAMES WISHART FALCONER WALLACE
The Manor Farm House, Damerham, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 3HN.

Proposed Director

PHILIP FREDERICK BIRD
31 The Deeringes, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2BF.

Secretary and Head Office

MALCOLM CLIVE GREEN
Staple-Hall, Stone House Court, London EC3A 7ED.

Financial Advisers

HAMBROS BANK LIMITED
41 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2AA

Principal Bankers

COUTTS & CO.
15 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9AY

MIDLAND BANK LIMITED
140 Leadenhall Street, London EC3Y 4PS.

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED

29 The Broadway, Joel Street, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 1NY.

Brokers

ROWE & PITMAN
City Gate House, 39/41 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1JA and The Stock Exchange

Solicitors

NORTON, ROSE, BOTTERELL & ROCHE
Kempson House, Camomile Street, London EC3A 7AN.

Auditors of the Company and Reporting Accountants on the A&B Group

NEVILLE RUSSELL & CO. Chartered Accountants
30 Artillery Lane, Bishopsgate, London E1 7LT.

Registrars and Registered Office

BANK OF SCOTLAND
26a York Place, Edinburgh EH1 3EY.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are used in this document:

"the Company" Edinburgh General Insurance Services Limited
"A&B" Andrew & Booth, Limited
"the A&B Group" the Company and its subsidiaries prior to the acquisition of A&B
"the Existing Group" the Company and its subsidiaries following the acquisition of A&B
"MRW" Maynard, Wallace & Coffey Limited
"Hambros" Hambros Bank Limited

PARTICULARS OF THE ENLARGED GROUP

1. HISTORY AND BUSINESS

(a) The Company

The Company was incorporated in Scotland in 1964. Hitherto it has been the holding company for the Existing Group. On 2nd July, 1981 it entered into a conditional Agreement for the acquisition of A&B which, it is expected will be completed on 24th July, 1981.

(b) The Existing Group

The principal subsidiaries in the Existing Group carry on business as reinsurers and insurance brokers and underwriting agents in the London market generally and in particular at Lloyd's.

Broking Activities

The principal broking subsidiary is MRW, which was established in 1961 and is a Lloyd's broker. It handles a substantial volume of reinsurance business on a worldwide basis and specialises in excess and proportional treaty business, as well as handling a considerable facultative account. The other Lloyd's broker in the Existing Group is EGIS (International) Limited (formerly EGIS (North America) Limited), which started handling North American business in 1980 and currently specialises in aviation business. Maynard, Wallace & Coffey Limited was established in 1977 and handles most aspects of insurance, with particular emphasis on marine cargo business. Meara Gibson Limited, the business of which was established in 1978 and which was acquired by the Company in 1979, handles direct UK industrial and commercial insurance business, together with mortgage and life and pension contracts. Afro-Arab Insurance Services Limited was formed in 1979 to handle business emanating from Africa and the Arab world, which previously had been handled by an associated company. The Existing Group has a 49 per cent. interest in European Reinsurance Brokers Limited, a joint company formed in 1967 in partnership with Bulsarad, the Bulgarian State Insurance and Reinsurance Company, to handle its marine and aviation reinsurance.

Underwriting Activities

Cullum Underwriting Agencies Limited, established in 1970, is the Existing Group's most profitable subsidiary. It has recently become the exclusive representative in the London market as contact office for ADAS, the Romanian State Insurance Company, having previously acted for ADAS on a non-exclusive basis. It is run by a specialised underwriting advisory team which handles London market excess of loss insurance. Negotiations are in progress for ADAS to purchase 50 per cent. of the equity of the subsidiary with effect from 1st January, 1982; the Company is reasonably confident that arrangements will be negotiated whereby the Existing Group will continue to receive income from this source of no less amount than it receives at present.

Maynard Wallace & Coffey Agencies Limited, a Lloyd's underwriting agency established in 1975, manages a marine syndicate and acts as a members' agent on a sub-underwriting basis. The Existing Group is re-arranging its interest in this subsidiary by procuring that it transfers its role as managing agent to the underwriter, who in return is surrendering its 49 per cent. interest in it to the Company; it is not expected that the Existing Group will suffer any material loss of income from this development. Maynard Wallace & Bell Agencies Limited, established in 1977, is also a Lloyd's underwriting agency company which manages both aviation and non-aviation syndicates. The long-term future of these two subsidiaries within the Existing Group may be affected by the Lloyd's Bill, currently before Parliament, when it is eventually enacted.

(c) The A&B Group

A&B was incorporated in 1932 and in January 1975 was purchased by Mr. A. J. W. F. Wallace, Mr. P. F. Bird and their associates. The A&B Group is now one of the country's leading high street insurance brokers. It specialises in motor insurance, which accounts for the predominant part of its business, but it offers a wide range of insurance broking services to individual and corporate clients. A&B has 46 branches situated in principal towns of England, Scotland and Wales, with its head office at Northwood, Middlesex. A&B has recently acquired for a nominal sum the issued share capital of two associated insurance broking companies operating from the same office in Aberdeen and which are currently expected to show a net asset deficit of £50,000 as at 16th June, 1981. A&B has excellent long-standing relationships with insurance companies as well as with many of the motor underwriting syndicates at Lloyd's, and it is thus able to provide a competitive and comprehensive service for its clients. Since 1975 the Company, through its wholly-owned subsidiary MRW, has had a trading relationship with A&B, as explained in "Reasons for the Acquisition" below. The long-term future of these two subsidiaries within the Existing Group may be affected by the Lloyd's Bill, currently before Parliament, when it is eventually enacted.

(d) Reasons for the Acquisition of A&B

Through MRW the Group has had a strong trading connection with A&B since 1974. This connection arose because A&B, which is not at Lloyd's, cannot place motor business with Lloyd's syndicates direct unless the premiums are guaranteed by a Lloyd's broker; and in 1974 MRW agreed to become the guaranteeing broker for business placed with certain motor syndicates. This relationship still exists, although not on an exclusive basis, and provides a profitable source of income for MRW.

In recent years motor premiums have enjoyed an enviable record of keeping pace with inflation. Even during the 1970's, when stringent price controls applied, the motor insurers had their case accepted for premium increases to operate prospectively rather than retrospectively. A&B's income, derived as it is from commissions on motor premiums, has thus been protected from inflation. Moreover, as it is from commissions on motor premiums that A&B has derived its main income, it has been able to expand its ability to expand in the field of high street motor broking, both organically and by acquisition, and to keep tight control of administrative costs. All these factors have contributed to an impressive growth in turnover and profits, as shown in the Accountant's Report in "Financial Information" below. The Directors of the Company consider that the high street motor insurance broking field will continue to be a growth area.

A&B is one of the leading companies in motor insurance broking and the one with the greatest geographical spread of retail outlets. Since A&B's business is confined to Great Britain, it does not have to contend with unpredictable foreign regulation, with overseas economic crises or with numerous of income arising in one currency and expenditure having to be met in another. Moreover, since numerous individual premiums are paid, almost exclusively in cash, A&B has minimal financing problems and is not exposed to the risks of major bad debts or of the loss of major customers.

For all these reasons the acquisition of A&B will represent a source of strength and stability to the Group, whose traditional exclusive businesses, in common with those of other London insurance broking groups, support a large proportion of their income from excess. While geographical diversification has obvious advantages, nevertheless the currently unsettled economic and political conditions in many countries make it particularly desirable that the Group, through the acquisition of A&B, should now reduce its exposure to exchange rate fluctuations.

2. DIRECTORS, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

(a) Directors of the Company

Executive Directors

Mr. D. P. Douetil, Chairman and Chief Executive (aged 50), has worked in Lloyd's for 30 years, for 27 of which he was with one of the leading firms of Lloyd's and international brokers, for the last five of those years as Chief Executive. He joined the Existing Group in April 1979 as Chief Executive and became Chairman in July 1980.

Mr. A. J. W. F. Wallace (aged 45), has spent 24 years in the insurance industry, the major part of which has been with MRW, of which he is currently Chairman. He also has special responsibility for the underwriting activities of the Existing Group. Since 1975 he has been Chairman of A&B.

Mr. P. F. Bird (aged 44), who is to become a Director on completion of the acquisition of A&B, has spent 23 years in the insurance industry. He became a Director of A&B in 1973 and its Chief Executive (initially on a joint basis) in 1975.

Non-Executive Directors

Mr. E. W. Cook is Chairman and principal shareholder of Cook Industries Inc., of Memphis, Tennessee. Cook Industries Inc., which has substantial insurance interests and a wholly-owned subsidiary of which, Maccom S.A., acquired a significant shareholding in the Company in May 1980, represents an important connection for the Existing Group, particularly in aviation reinsurance. Mr. Cook was appointed a Director of the Company in May 1980.

Mr. J. W. Crystal was appointed a Director in July, 1979. He is President and proprietor of Frank Crystal Inc., a firm of American insurance brokers with strong connections with Lloyd's and the London market going back over two generations.

Mr. P. B. Meara was appointed a Director in July, 1979, when Meara Gibson Limited was acquired. At that time he was its Chief Executive and now is its non-executive Deputy-Chairman.

Mr. E. Patry, a Director of Maccom S.A., was appointed a Director of the Company in July, 1980.

(b) Senior Executives of the Existing Group

Mr. D. E. Ramest (aged 43), has been Chief Executive of MRW since June, 1979, having joined it in July, 1974 after spending 20 years with another firm of Lloyd's brokers.

Mr. I. D. S. Gibson (aged 40), is Chief Executive of Meara Gibson Limited, having spent 41 years with it and its predecessor company. This followed 19 years with Commercial Union Assurance Company Limited.

Mr. M. C. Green (aged 44), was appointed Secretary of the Company in May, 1980, having joined MRW in March 1965. In recent years he has had responsibility for MRW's accounting records.

Mr. A. J. Hughes (aged 37) joined the Existing Group on the formation of Maynard, Wallace & Coffey Limited in 1977, having over 22 years' experience of that company, having previously had 15 years' experience as a senior broker with prominent firms of brokers handling cargo, general marine and all risks business.

Mr. G. A. P. Leigh-Pollitt (aged 43), a Chartered Accountant, joined the Existing Group in June, 1980, as Group Chief Accountant. He was employed for the previous 18 years by a firm of international accountants, for the last 12 of them as a senior manager.

Mr. L. R. Sawyer (aged 34), joined MRW in March, 1967 as a broker, specialising in marine business. He assisted in the formation of Cullum Underwriting Agencies Limited and was appointed Marine Underwriter and Director in February 1974 and Managing Director in 1975.

Mr. D. F. Tyler (aged 39), joined EGIS (International) Limited in July, 1980. He was appointed Chief Executive in January, 1981, having over 22 years' experience of dealing with insurance in the aviation industry. In the 15 years before joining the Existing Group he specialised in general aviation insurance and reinsurance broking.

(c) Existing Group Staff

The Existing Group has approximately 100 other employees, of whom approximately half are engaged in broking, underwriting and technical support, with the remainder concerned with administrative and accounting functions. Virtually all the staff are located in offices in the City of London and its immediate vicinity.

(d) A&B Directors

The Board of A&B consists of Mr. A. J. W. F. Wallace and Mr. P. F. Bird (see above) and the following individuals:—

Mr. R. W. J. Perrowe (aged 39), is an Executive Director. He has been in the insurance business for 20 years and has worked with A&B since 1971; He became a Director in 1977.

Mr. B. M. Hardy (aged 30) is a registered insurance broker and has been with A&B since 1971. He is A&B's marketing sales manager and was appointed a Director in May 1981.

Mr. F. G. Maynard (aged 56), has been a non-executive Director of A&B since 1978, but will resign as a Director on completion of the acquisition of the issued share capital of A&B by the Company.

(e) Senior Executives of the A&B Group

Mr. G. Carrington (aged 49), is a Chartered Secretary and a member of the Institute of Administrative Accountants.

Mr. S. P. Kall (aged 48), is the Managing Director of the building subsidiary, Curlew Construction Limited, which he joined in 1967. He has been in the construction industry since 1953.

(f) A&B Group Staff

The A&B Group has approximately 225 employees. Each branch has a manager responsible for its administration and the development of its business. Group management and accounting are centralised at the head office at Northwood, which is staffed by some 30 employees.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1. PROFITS, PROSPECTS AND DIVIDENDS

The vendors of A&B have warranted to the Company that the profits before taxation (subject to a minor adjustment) of the A&B Group for the current financial year ending 31st December, 1981, will be not less than £500,000. This amount would represent an increase of 30 per cent. over the profits for 1980 and would continue the trend of profit growth experienced by A&B over the five years to 1980. The warranted figure does not represent a forecast of the 1981 profits of the A&B Group. The Agreement provides that, in the event of the 1981 profits falling below the warranted figure, the vendors will make a payment to the Company calculated by reference to a scale set out in "Terms of the Acquisition of A&B" in "Statutory and General Information" below.

As regards the Existing Group, the accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1980 showed a loss, primarily because of the difficulties experienced by EGIS (International) Limited (formerly EGIS (North America) Limited). Towards the end of that year the Directors decided that the factors which contributed to these difficulties were likely to persist, and that subsidiary's former operations have been wound down, with consequent redundancy costs. The Existing Group has started 1981 satisfactorily and the Directors are confident that this represents a sustainable improvement on the situation which prevailed during 1980. The continued recovery of the Existing Group should be aided by the upward movement of the US dollar, in which currency a significant proportion of its income is earned.

Taking these factors into account and in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, the Directors expect the Company will pay dividends for the current financial year totalling 1p net per share on the enlarged capital. This will be made up as to 0.3p as an interim dividend payable in December 1981 and a final dividend of 0.7p payable in or about July 1982.

2. RIGHTS ISSUE AND WORKING CAPITAL

Subject to the Council of The Stock Exchange admitting the whole of the Company's share capital (both in issue and to be issued pursuant to the acquisition and to the rights issue described herein) to the Official List, the Directors propose that the Company should raise additional permanent capital by means of a rights issue of 2,814,502 new Ordinary Shares of 10p each at 18p per share payable in full on acceptance by 14th August, 1981. The rights issue has been underwritten by Hambros. Existing holders of Ordinary Shares will be entitled to subscribe for new Ordinary Shares on the basis of 1 new Ordinary Share for every 2 Ordinary Shares held at the close of business on 30th June, 1981.

The net proceeds of the rights issue will amount to approximately £286,000 (after the deduction of such of the expenses of the issue and of the other transactions described in this document, estimated to amount to £21,000, as are payable by the Company) and will be applied as additional working capital for the Enlarged Group. The Directors are satisfied that, with the bank facilities which will be available and with the net proceeds of the rights issue, the Enlarged Group will have sufficient working capital for its present requirements.

3. PRO-FORMA STATEMENT OF THE COMBINED NET ASSETS OF THE ENLARGED GROUP

The pro-forma statement of the combined net assets of the Enlarged Group set out below has been prepared from the audited consolidated balance sheets of the Existing Group and of the A&B Group, in each case as at 31st December, 1980:

	The Existing Group £	The A&B Group £	Adjustments £	Pro-forma Consolidated Balance Sheet £
Employment of Capital				
Fixed Assets	273,216	765,555	61,709 ⁽¹⁾	1,100,480
Investments	30,585	10,200	—	40,785
Interests in Associated Companies	8,075	—	—	8,075
	311,876	775,755	61,709	1,149,340
Current Assets				
Stocks and work in progress	—	172,012	—	172,012
Secured debtors	—	22,083	—	22,083
Debtors and prepayments	8,503,721	326,768	—	8,830,489
Amounts due from associated companies	35,620	—	—	35,620
Deposits, balances at bank and cash in hand	1,792,423	1,932,303	286,000 ⁽²⁾	4,010,726
	10,338,764	2,453,086	286,000	13,077,850
Current Liabilities				
Creditors and accruals	9,897,365	2,007,401	—	11,904,766
Taxation	15,819	297,238	—	313,057
Loan (secured)	—	150,000	—	150,000
Bank overdrafts	—	44,761	—	44,761
	9,913,184	2,498,400	—	12,411,584
Net Current Assets	425,580	43,626	286,000	755,206
	737,456	819,381	347,709	1,904,546
Less:				
Loan (secured)	—	350,000	—	350,000
Secured debtors	21,436	30,660	—	52,096
Minority interests	11,519	—	—	11,519
	32,955	380,660	—	413,615
Net Tangible Assets	£704,501	£438,721	£347,709	£1,490,931
Capital Employed and Goodwill				
Share Capital	562,900	100,000	1,514,783 ⁽³⁾	2,177,683
Share Premium Account	564,150	—	1,071,217 ⁽⁴⁾	1,635,367
Reserves	17,743	480,207	(480,207) ⁽⁵⁾	17,743
	1,144,793	580,207	2,105,793	3,830,793

Less: Goodwill

(1) At 31st December, 1980	440,292	141,486	—	581,778
(2) Arising on acquisition of A&B Group	—	—	1,758,084 ⁽⁶⁾	1,758,084
	440,292	141,486	1,758,084	2,339,862
	£704,501	£438,721	£347,709	£1,490,931

(1) to (6) see notes attached

Edinburgh General Insurance Services Limited (cont.)

NOTES

The Pro-Forma Consolidated Balance Sheet is only intended as a guide to the future Group consolidation of the Existing Group and the A&B Group. For the purpose of illustration it has been assumed that the acquisition took place at 31st December, 1980, although it will take place in July 1981. The Pro-Forma Consolidation has been prepared using the following assumptions and after making the following adjustments:

- In accordance with the Statement of Standard Accounting Practice No. 14, the assets of the A&B Group have been revalued as at the date of acquisition by £61,709.
- The group proceeds of the rights issue will amount to £256,610, which, after deducting the estimated expenses of the issue, will provide the Existing Group with additional working capital of £236,000.
- The adjustment of £1,514,783 to share capital is made up as follows:-

Issue of 12,333,333 Ordinary Shares of 10p each to the vendors of A&B ..	£ 1,333,333
Issue of 2,814,502 Ordinary Shares of 10p each under the rights issue ..	281,450
Less: Share Capital of A&B eliminated on consolidation ..	1,614,783
	£ 1,514,783

- The increase of £1,071,217 in the Share Premium Account is made up as follows:-

Premium of 8p per share on the issue of:-	£
12,333,333 shares issued to the vendors of A&B ..	1,066,667
2,814,502 shares issued under the rights issue ..	225,160
Less costs of issue (including for this purpose the Reporting accounts costs) ..	1,291,327
	£ 220,610
	£ 1,071,217

- The adjustment of £480,207 to the Reserves is in respect of the elimination on consolidation of the A&B Group's pre-acquisition profits.

- The premium arising on acquisition is calculated as follows:-

Purchase price for the A&B Group ..	£ 2,400,000
Less: A&B Group's Share Capital ..	100,000
A&B Group's Reserves ..	480,207
	£ 2,879,793
Surplus arising on revaluation of Fixed Assets ..	61,709
	£ 2,941,502

4. ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON ANDREW & BOOTH, LIMITED

The following is a copy of the Report of Messrs. Neville Russell & Co., Chartered Accountants:-

The Directors,
Edinburgh General Insurance Services Limited,
Staple Hall,
Stone House Court,
London EC3A 7ED

30 Argyll Lane,
Bathoppe,
London E11 7JL

2nd July, 1981

Dear Sirs,

I. INTRODUCTION

(i) We have examined the audited financial statements of Andrew & Booth, Limited (A&B) and of its subsidiary companies (collectively referred to in this report as the A&B Group) for the five years ended 31st December, 1980.

(ii) The summaries set out in paragraphs II to IV below are based on the audited financial statements after making such adjustments as we consider appropriate.

(iii) The financial statements of the A&B Group were audited by Messrs Messon Makinson Smith & Co., who have expressed an unqualified opinion in respect of each of the five years ended 31st December, 1980.

(iv) In our opinion the summarized financial statements in paragraphs II to IV which have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets, give a true and fair view of the profit of the A&B Group and of the source and application of funds for the five years ended 31st December, 1980 and of the state of affairs of A&B and the A&B Group at 31st December, 1980.

(v) Supplementary current cost information together with the basis of preparation is set out in Section V of this report.

(vi) In our opinion the abridged supplementary current cost statements for the year ended 31st December, 1980 have been properly prepared in accordance with the policies and methods set out in Section V of this report and give the information required by Statement of Standard Accounting Practice No. 16.

(vii) No audited financial statements of A&B or of any of its subsidiaries have been made up in respect of any period subsequent to 31st December, 1980.

II. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS—THE A&B GROUP

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Turnover ..	799,747	1,039,985	1,426,198	1,636,275	2,099,701
Expenditure ..	715,017	937,212	1,262,816	1,335,436	1,682,641
Net profit before taxation exceptional items and extraordinary items ..	84,730	102,773	163,382	300,939	417,060
Exceptional items ..	—	—	(20,617)	25,935	—
Net profit before taxation and extraordinary items ..	84,730	102,773	142,765	326,874	417,060
Taxation (charge) ..	—	(11,056)	(33,355)	(46,639)	(202,156)
Profit after taxation but before extraordinary items ..	84,730	91,717	109,410	280,235	214,904
Extraordinary items ..	—	—	—	—	(27,774)
Profit for the year carried to reserves ..	84,730	91,717	109,410	280,235	187,130
Earnings per share ..	84.7p	91.7p	89.4p	280.3p	214.9p

III. BALANCE SHEETS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1980

	The A&B Group	A&B
Fixed Assets ..	763,555	678,139
Goodwill ..	141,486	125,632
Investments ..	10,200	7,500
Investments in Subsidiaries ..	—	45,719
Current Assets ..	917,241	864,190
Stock and work-in-progress ..	17,012	—
Secured debtors ..	22,003	22,003
Debtors and prepayments ..	326,788	213,445
Short term deposits ..	1,834,225	1,185,109
Group indebtedness ..	273,056	273,056
Bank and cash balances ..	98,078	32,747
	2,433,086	1,726,358
Current Liabilities ..	—	—
Amounts due to insurance companies ..	1,784,366	1,373,784
Taxation ..	207,298	106,045
Creditors and accruals ..	223,033	143,440
Group indebtedness ..	—	30,980
Loan (secured) ..	130,000	130,000
Bank overdraft ..	44,761	42,150
	2,409,460	1,846,399
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities) ..	43,626	(120,041)
Less: ..	900,867	744,149
Loan (secured) ..	330,000	330,000
Deferred taxation ..	30,660	28,740
Provision for losses of a subsidiary company ..	—	2,919
	380,660	361,659
	£580,207	£362,490

Share Capital ..	100,000	100,000
Reserves ..	480,207	262,490
	£580,207	£362,490

IV. STATEMENT OF SOURCE AND APPLICATION OF FUNDS—THE A&B GROUP

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Source of Funds Operations ..	—	—	—	—	—
Profit before taxation and extraordinary items ..	84,730	102,773	142,765	326,874	417,060
Extraordinary items—legal and professional costs ..	—	—	—	—	(27,774)
	84,730	102,773	142,765	326,874	389,286
Adjustments for items not involving the movement of funds ..	—	—	—	—	—
Depreciation ..	21,041	27,238	37,042	53,900	41,157
Profit on disposal of freehold property ..	—	—	—	(37,262)	—
Loss on disposal of investments ..	—	—	21,968	(413)	—
Total Generated from Operations ..	105,771	130,011	201,775	343,119	430,443
Funds from Other Sources ..	—	—	—	—	—
Long-term loan ..	—	—	—	500,000	—
Sale of fixed assets ..	3,330	9,195	25,247	194,729	2,206
Sale of investments ..	—	4,706	(1,078)	79,110	(7,457)
Reduction in secured debts ..	109,101	143,912	225,944	1,102,967	425,192
Application of Funds ..	—	—	—	—	—
Purchase of fixed assets ..	(53,385)	(146,274)	(242,771)	(136,305)	(102,707)
Taxation paid ..	—	(849)	(6,779)	(17,713)	(51,907)
Purchase of goodwill of agencies ..	(18,264)	(4,324)	(26,104)	(34,696)	(42,216)
Purchase of investments ..	—	(25,996)	(57,880)	(2,700)	—
Increase/(Decrease) in Working Capital ..	£37,152	£(33,731)	£(105,290)	£890,933	£228,362
Represented by Changes in: ..	—	—	—	—	—
Debtors ..	(24,091)	84,640	(12,783)	124,863	19,011
Amounts due to insurance companies ..	(111,611)	(143,673)	(281,818)	(267,889)	(355,897)
Stock and work-in-progress ..	35,093	(16,710)	(31,477)	80,836	(6,289)
Creditors ..	26,176	(26,460)	7,217	(88,421)	7,511
	(74,435)	(102,203)	(278,861)	(150,611)	(335,671)
Movement in net liquid funds: ..	—	—	—	—	—
Bank and cash balances and bank overdraft ..	76,587	28,472	3,271	10,792	30,380
Short term deposits ..	35,000	40,000	170,000	1,030,772	533,453
	£37,152	£(33,731)	£(105,290)	£890,933	£228,362

NOTES

1. Basis of consolidation

The consolidated accounts include the accounts of A&B and all its subsidiaries made up to 31st December in each year.

2. Accounting policies

- Commissions:
 - Direct non-life business:
 - Commissions and commissions thereon are credited when the client is charged.
 - Initial commission is credited in full on receipt of confirmation from insurance companies. Renewal commission is credited on receipt of cash.
 - Depreciation:
 - Depreciation of fixed assets is provided so as to write off the cost or valuation of the assets over the estimated periods of use on the following bases:-

Long leasehold property ..	2 per cent. of cost (since 1st January, 1979), in equal instalments over the period of the lease.
Short term lease ..	20 per cent. of cost.
Construction equipment ..	20 per cent. of cost.
Furniture, fixtures and fittings ..	15 per cent. of the reducing balance.
Office equipment ..	20 per cent. of valuation and cost.
Motor vehicles ..	12.5 to 25 per cent. of cost.
 - Stock and work-in-progress:
 - Stock and work-in-progress, including land held for development, are stated at the lower of cost and estimated net realisable value.
 - Deferred taxation:
 - The A&B Group provides for deferred taxation using the liability method in respect of taxation deferred by accelerated capital allowances and other timing differences, except where, in the opinion of the directors, the liability to tax is unlikely to arise in the foreseeable future.

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Turnover ..	799,747	1,039,985	1,426,198	1,636,275	2,099,701
Commission receivable in respect of business placed during the year ..	707,265	882,548	1,163,940	1,451,458	1,778,042
Construction and building work invoiced during the year ..	92,482	157,737	262,258	184,917	321,659
	£799,747	£1,039,985	£1,426,198	£1,636,275	£2,099,701

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
4. Net profit before taxation, exceptional items and extraordinary items	84,730	102,773	142,765	326,874	417,060
Net profit before taxation, exceptional items and extraordinary items after charging:					
Depreciation	21,041	27,238	37,042	53,900	41,157
Director's remuneration	84,144	49,977	81,330	79,999	61,204
Bank and other interest	5,485	2,654	1,611	1,154	102,217
Misc of plant	—	—	—	5,513	—
and after charging:					
Net rental income	14,970	(3,600)	9,115	74,169	17,726
Interest receivable	18,568	22,623	45,813	91,267	212,769
Dividend received	—	—	—	4,888	—

Signs of a rally

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, July 13. Dealings End, July 23. § Contango Day, July 24. Settlement Day, Aug 3
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

La crème de la crème

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- A minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar position

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Mr B. Steele, Staff Manager,
Societe Generale,
105-108 Old Broad Street, EC2 P2HR.

SECRETARY/PA TO GENERAL MANAGER

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A main Board Director of the Chef and Brewer Leisure and retail group of companies is seeking a confidential Personal Secretary. The position involves entertaining guests in addition to organising meetings and correspondence. Applicants should therefore possess good communication and social skills in addition to excellent shorthand and typing.

For details of the job and the benefits telephone Marian Rosenblatt, 01-631 4885.



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Bilingual Secretary with experience required, good French, English and French shorthand and typing, to work for two members of administrative staff of small secretariat of this European organisation. Attractive salary. Applications, enclosing C.V., and including tel. no to E.S.S., 1 Quai Lezay-Marnes, 67000 Strasbourg, France, to arrive by 10 August, 1981.

YOUNG SECRETARY FOR CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

c. £5,500 + bonus + free lunch

The Chairman and his Assistant of the American Institute for Foreign Study, the educational travel organisers, need a secretary with some experience, 20+, with speeds of 100/60 wpm. Knowledge of word processors is advantageous but not essential as training will be given. Other benefits include 4 weeks holiday, free medical insurance and non-contributory pension scheme.

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An unusual opportunity to work with rather than for the Director of an American State Agency engaged in the area of European-US investment.

The successful candidate will:

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For the right person the salary will be no barrier and will be accompanied by a full range of employee benefits.

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MAYFAIR £7,000

Our client is the American "Executive in London" of an International Oil Consortium. He requires an efficient secretary with good skills, who can provide a complete secretarial back up, but in addition he looks for someone with that extra spark who can "pitch in" and really participate. This is a post for a "smart" secretary in all senses of the word.

Super offices, £5 p.w. L.V.s, season ticket loan, non-contributory pension, BUPA.

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